

out an unnatural-sounding scream. The illness described here occurs rather seldom and is difficult to hold in check.

120a *Epilepsy.* There are also persons with another type of this illness. They are fickle, imprudent and impatient. Quite often the soul, suffering severely from their disposition, retreats and succumbs. Then the body from which the soul's powers have been withdrawn, so to speak, falls to the ground and remains there as if dead until the soul has regained its powers. Such people have an engaging expression and a gentle attitude. When they fall to the ground, thrown down by this illness, they sometimes let out a sound that seems rather mournful and natural and they froth a lot at the mouth. Nevertheless, they can easily be cured. [. . .]

121a *Parasitic worms.* From noxious and bad humors that have a toxic effect and that gather in humans like a *livor* and change into a harmful thin fluid, similar to tepid and putrid wine, worms may easily develop in humans, especially in infants and children because in them the humors are still quite intermixed with milk. Worms do not develop from normal humors nor from those that are sharp as vinegar. If however worms begin to grow in persons with normal humors, they will quickly disappear again. But if such worms increase in a person, they will make him weak indeed. [. . .]

121b *[Urinary tract] stone.* A person who is in the prime of life, has soft and moist flesh on his body and consumes various rich foods and heavy, good wine will easily develop a stone. Although his flesh is soft and moist from the food and drink mentioned, some kind of sediment coagulates in the site where urine should flow out and hardens to form a stone. Yet, due to the warmth and the strength of urine, this stone will be rather soft as long as it remains inside the body. So this person can slowly and sparsely pass urine, albeit with difficulty. For if the stone hardened inside the body, the

123a person would die very soon. This is true for both man and woman. But since man's urine is stronger than woman's, a man will suffer greater pain than a woman. If however children or infants are suffering from a stone, it derives from their wet nurses' bad and useless milk with which they were or are still being nourished. For when the nurse is infirm, or if she frequently consumes incompatible food and drink and strong wine, her milk loses its proper taste and has almost a bad smell. In a child or an infant, such milk will produce an evil smelling clot in the site where its urine leaves the body. And this will harden into a stone. [. . .]

123b *Ulcerations from leprosy.* Also, poor people who are physically healthy and tend to be gluttons, but cannot always have delicate food and drink, may contract the above-mentioned infirmity within two or three weeks, or within just one week should they, like gluttons, take the food and drink that is available to them, without watching the appropriate order. [. . .]

Leprosy. Other persons have firm flesh on their bodies and are irascible. Their rage upsets their blood so that it falls into the area around the liver. Hardened matter and blood from the liver mingles with that blood. Consequently, it is distributed throughout the entire body and irritates flesh and skin. As a result, the skin breaks, and the nostrils bulge and swell from the lacerations of the skin. Other persons are unrestrained in their lust; they do not practice and do not wish to practice continence. Consequently, their blood is often in turmoil, like a pot that is put on a fire but neither fully boils nor is completely cold; and so it retains its filth because it lacks the power to eject it. [. . .]

124a *Signs of leprosy.* These infirmities [i.e., the different types of leprosy] can be distinguished as follows: leprosy stemming from gluttony and drunkenness causes reddish swellings and reddish boils similar to [those of] dracunculus. Leprosy caused by the liver will lead to black lacerations in a human's skin and flesh, right down to the bones. Leprosy resulting from lust will bring about enlarged open sores whose surface is similar to bark while the skin beneath appears reddish. The former two kinds are difficult to cure, whereas the third can be treated quite easily.

Gout. Persons who have soft and porous flesh and drink a lot of strong wine often have a serious affliction called gout. For due to excessive drinking, the bad humors in people with soft flesh will suddenly attack a part of the body and destroy it, like burning javelins or sudden strong floods that at times destroy mills and other nearby buildings. Likewise these humors would destroy the parts they attack were this not prevented by the grace of God and the vital spirit in humans. Nevertheless, they destroy many a limb and make it useless as if it were dead.

124b *Contraction of the tendons. Fevers.* It happens often that the tempests and storms of bad humors attack a limb of the human body and, in their madness, close off the blood in the blood vessels so that blood cannot flow there anymore. Consequently, because they are lacking blood, these vessels dry out. And so this person begins to limp.

Because human beings are created from the elements they are sustained by the elements, and associate and interact with them. As a consequence, various fevers exist in humans due to the various qualities of air and the other elements, that is to say, due to warmth, coldness and moisture.⁵⁶ These fevers will not cast humans down or harm them but, rather, bring them health in that they purge the chests, stomachs and all the viscera by means of sweat and urine – assuming that these fevers do not exceed their measure and as long as the air maintains the right tempera-

⁵⁶ Due to moisture} reading *ab humiditate* for *ab humore* in K.