Aretaeus of Cappadocia Encyclopedia Article

Aretaeus of Cappadocia

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Contents

Aretaeus of Cappadocia Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Aretaeus of Cappadocia.....3

Aretaeus of Cappadocia

81?-138?

Greek physician who practiced Hippocratic medicine in Rome and Alexandria. He left many excellent accounts of disease, including *On the Causes and Indications of Acute and Chronic Diseases* and *On the Treatment of Acute and Chronic Diseases,* which contain description of asthma, epilepsy, diphtheria, pleurisy, pneumonia, and tetanus. Aretaeus was apparently the first to distinguish between spinal and cerebral paralyses and the first to provide a clear description of diabetes. Because the disorder was characterized by intense thirst and excessive urination, he named it diabetes, meaning "to pass through."