Vivienne Lo, Michael Stanley-Baker, and Dolly Yang have put together an edited volume on the history of Chinese medicine for experts, scholars, and students, which is impressive and essential for educators and experts needing quick access to the latest scholarship on specific topics and trustworthy bibliographic sources. This eight-hundred-page gargantuan volume, with contributions from forty-nine scholars from across the world, is the best example of how far the field has shifted since the Cambridge University Press series Science and Civilisation in China (1954-) was conceived in the 1940s. Stanley-Baker and Yang are both disciples of Lo, affirming the importance of the master-disciple relationship crucial in erudite and technical traditions in East Asia and the larger Sinosphere. The volume reflects the Lo lineage's conception of how one might approach the study of Chinese medicine, that is, chronologically, thematically, and through mobilities of Chinese medicine over time and place.

The volume has seven parts and each contains a series of chapters on the most fundamental and recent scholarship on the interdisciplinary nature of the study and practice of Chinese medicine. Part 1, "Longue Durée and Formation of Institutions and Traditions," lays out the foundational concepts of qi and yin-yang (opposite but interconnected forces) and the canonical classics. The most significant aspect of this early history of Chinese medicine is the introduction of numerology (science of numbers) in two chapters, thereby reinstating numerology into medicine and explaining how numbers weave complex and stable structures to frame medical concepts. Other core medical topics include longevity from early China up until today with emphasis on daoyin (therapeutic exercise), canonical medical works and historical debates, and pharmacology from earliest times up to the Song (ca. 968-1279).

Part 2, "Sickness and Healing," covers the history of ancient pulse taking and modern tongue
diagnosis, *yi’an* 醫案 (medical case records), acupuncture, anatomy and surgery, history of disease, epidemiology, and folk medicine. Part 3, "Food and Sex," includes chapters on dietetics (chapter 19, "What Not To Eat—How Not To Treat Medical Prohibitions"), sexual techniques from early China to modern times, gynecology and obstetrics, and the question of sex in the modern era. Part 4, "Spiritual and Orthodox Religious Practices," provides crucial roadmaps on how to approach the complex intersections of religious healing in the Daoist and Buddhist traditions. Other chapters in this part include delineation of technical traditions such as alchemy, the interwoven use of herbs in combination with astrology, incantations, and talismanic arts.

Part 5, "The World of Sinographic Medicine: A Diversity of Interlinked Traditions," provides introductory histories to the mobilities and interactions of Chinese medicine with other traditions. The editors have included the transmission of Persian medicine in China over long periods of time (chapter 32), and the subsequent four chapters delineate the history of Chinese medicine in Vietnam, Korea, Japan, and Singapore, plus one chapter on minority medicine based on the institutionalized post-1949 categorization of ethnic minorities in the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

Part 6, "Wider Diasporas," covers the transmissions of Chinese medicine to early modern Europe, acupuncture to France and Italy in the twentieth century, the multivalent history of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the United States, acupuncture in the *Imperium Hispanicum* (the Spanish world, including here Cuba, Guatemala, and the Philippines), and the transfer of medical practices to different African nations. The final chapter in this part 6 focuses on the issues of translating Chinese medicine in the West, with political and economic implications for the status of Chinese medicine in a biomedical world.

Part 7, "Negotiating Modernity," includes eight chapters on the momentous changes in Chinese medicine as related to the historical and seismic political shifts in the PRC. These include Maoist medicine, which sought to decenter the reliance on Western medicine and to redress rural healthcare inequities; Communist medicine as exemplified by the emergence of TCM and barefoot doctors; the uneasy entanglement of Western biomedicine and Chinese medicine in the PRC; and the reconceptualization of public health (*weisheng* 衛生, literally the protection of life). Of particular interest to those interested in pharmaceutics will be the chapter on how scientists and historians use two different genres (Chinese *bencao* versus Linnaean taxonomy or British pharmacopoeia) to contextualize and examine the history of drugs and materia medica, and also the chapter on the historical, biochemical, transformational uses of licorice. The final chapter on the rise of health foods and medicine associated with Chinese medicine with the advent of decontextualized medicine, such as goji berry, points to the abuse and potential of Chinese materia medica.

This volume has become an important companion for my teaching at a small liberal arts college with limited access to specialized materials and journals. The length of each chapter is appropriate as a short complementary reading, and the bibliography lists premodern and modern sources, which is extremely useful for researchers. It is not loaded with details or technical language, making it accessible to students as well as experts. The topics and themes demonstrate the concerns of the editors for the relevance and the dynamic changing nature of Chinese medicine globally and within its place of origin. The theme of dynamic outside practices and knowledge adapted into the tradition and in turn reshaping and transforming Chinese medicine runs throughout the volume, challenging any simple or static definitions of Chinese medicine. This is a rich, multifaceted, and everchanging picture of Chinese medicine, decentering any notions of it being old, traditional, or...
ancient. This volume is testimony to the potential of academic rigor and collegiality at its best.

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