

Records

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Petrarca F (1364). Rerum Senilium Libri. Liber XIV, Epistola 1. Letter to Boccaccio (V.3). [Letters of old age].

Key passages

ras aut cunctis affectibus p̄ferenda est. Itaq̄
 sic sentio, hoc affirmo. Si centū aut mille
 hoīes b̄m̄ etatis ac nate, et b̄ni m̄it̄
 b̄no similit̄is morbo correpti esset. Eorū
 q̄ pars dimidia s̄ illis p̄stet. Talis
 quales h̄t etas n̄ra. Nā nō sine
 ullis medicis n̄ali īstinctu et p̄p̄a dis
 cretōe se regēt. Nulla m̄ dubitatio est, quin
 ex illis p̄tes moverēt, plures ex istis evade
 rent. // Aliū quōdam hoīem p̄m̄ū literarū

Translation

"I solemnly affirm and believe, if a hundred or a thousand men of the same age, same temperament and habits, together with the same surroundings, were attacked at the same time by the same disease, that if one half followed the prescriptions of the doctors of the variety of those practicing at the present day, and that the other half took no medicine but relied on Nature's instincts, I have no doubt as to which half would escape."