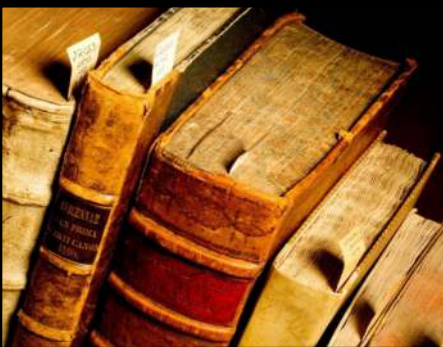


*Notes from the
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January 2020*

MOSES MAIMONIDES (1135-1204). *Mishnah [Hebrew transliterated]; sive legum mischnicarum liber qui inscribitur ordo puritatum*. Vol. VI only of 6 vols. Amsterdam: Excudunt Gerardus & Jacobus Borstius, 1703. [48] 504 [12] pp.

Maimonides was a native of Cordova but his family left there in 1148 following its conquest by the Almohads, a radical sect from North Africa who forced Jews to convert to Islam or seek exile. The family moved multiple times until settling in Fustat, near Cairo, in 1166. He began practicing medicine in the 1170s when first his father died and then his brother perished while on a trading venture in the Indian Ocean, losing all of the family's assets. Maimonides' stature as a philosopher and religious teacher overshadowed his achievements in medicine. His chief works were a commentary on the Mishnah, his codification of the Talmudic law, and the Guide for the perplexed in which he endeavored to reconcile Greek philosophy with the religious thought of his day. Maimonides' masterful commentary on the Mishnah was written over a ten year period and first published in 1168. The Mishnah is the first part of the Jewish Talmud and is a codification of the originally oral laws which supplemented the written laws in the Pentateuch. It is divided into six parts which cover agriculture, ceremonies and holidays, marriage and divorce, civil and criminal law, the Temple, and ritual purity. This edition was published in six volumes with each volume devoted to one

part of the Mishnah. Only Volume 6 is here present and it deals with ritual purifications. Here are discussed the laws governing the ritual impurity as well as purification of vessels, dwellings, foods, and persons. Of medical interest are those tracts on leprosy, menstruation, and gonorrhea. Maimonides' commentary is printed in Hebrew with the Latin translation beside it.



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