Ibn Rushd, Abu'l-walid Muhammad Ibn Ahmad Ibn Muhammad, also known as Averroës (b. Cordoba, Spain 1126; d. Marrakech, Morocco, 10 December 1198)

Ibn Rushd was working in the fields of astronomy, philosophy, medicine, mathematics ... etc. But his work in medicine was original. Among his teachers in medicine were Alī Abū Ja'far Ibn Hārūn Al-Tarrāgānī and Abū Marwan Ibn Jurrāyūl. Ibn Rushd's contributions to medicine can be seen at least in the following 13 parts:

(1) Kitab Al-Kulliyyāt ("The Book of Generalities")

Al-Kulliyyāt was the major work of Ibn Rushd in medicine and it was the most famous book he published. Colliget, the Latin translation of Al-Kulliyyāt, was made in Padua in 1255 by a Jew, Bonacosa, and the first edition was printed in Venice in 1482, followed by many other editions. Al-Kulliyyāt book is subdivided into seven books, and those books contain complete lessons in the making of medicine.

The seven books of Al-Kulliyyāt are:
1. Tashrīḥ al-ā dā ("Anatomy of Organs")
2. Al-Sihha ("Health")
3. Al-Marad ("Sickness")
4. Al-Alāmāt ("Symptoms")
5. Al-Adwiya wa'l Aghdiya ("Drugs and Foods")
6. Hiftah al-Sihha ("Hygiene")
7. Shifā al-Amrad ("Therapy")

Al-Kulliyyāt book was of very big importance in Europe for a long time.

Mr. Alfred Al-bostani, the professor of Arabic Literature in the Moroccan Studies Institute in Taiwan, wrote the introduction of Al-Kulliyyāt and put the scientific contents. The introduction and the scientific contents was translated to spanish language by Cristobal perez Vera.

(2) Al-Kawl fl Aalat Al-tanaffus ("The saying about Respiratory tools")


This chapter of Al-Kulliyyat’s book was published by Professor Christoph Bürgel "The Swedish" on the basis of three books:
1. Bibli. Nac. (Madrid) 132 – Gg 154, fol Iga
2. Colleccion del Sacro Monte (Granada) No. I

The first part of the three books begins with: wa-Aalat al-tanaffus Hia al-Higab, wa-al-Riáah wa-Kasabatha, wa-al-İonjarah, wa-al-Lohah, i.e. The Respiratory tools are the Diaphragm, the Lung and its 'n-achea, the Pharynx, and the Larynx.

(3) Sharh Urjúzat Ibn Sīnā ("The Explanation of Ibn Sīnā’s poem")

Ibn Rushd wrote a commentary to explain Ibn Sīnā’s Urjúza fi’l-tibb ("Poem on Medicine"). Ibn Sīnā’s Urjúza fi’l-tibb is very famous. It consists of 1326 poetry lines and it starts like: al-tibbo Hibtho Sihhatin buró maradin … or in Latin Canticum de medicina … That is, the medicine is to protect the health from disease … Sharh Urjúzat Ibn Sīnā starts with: Amma baádo Hamdi-ellahi bihayati-el-nafsi wa-sihhati-el-agsami … . That is, after thanking ALLAH (God) in the Self survival and the bodies Health … .

There are two more copies of Sharh Urjúzat Ibn Sīnā in Oxford, Paris, Algeria, Holland, Germany, Britain, … etc. Ibn Rushd commentary, Sharh Urjúzat Ibn Sīnā, was translated into Hebrew prose by Moses ben Tibbon in 1260; a translation into Hebrew verse was completed at Bézières (France) in 1261 by Solomon ben Ayyub ben Joseph of Granada.

Further, a Latin translation of the same work was made by Armenguad, son of Blaise, in 1280 or 1284, and a printed edition was published at Venice in 1484.

(4) Maqāla fl’-Tiryāq ("Treatise on Theriac", Tractatus de theriaca)

There are two copies of this Maqāla ("Treatise") in Escurial. A Latin translation of Ibn Rushd’s Maqāla fl’-Tiryāq was made by Andrea Alpago. There is also a translation in Hebrew. Ibn Abī Usābīa mentioned the title of the following letter which is perhaps, the letter mentioned by the Latin translation in al-Kulliyyat book: Colliget, VII, 2- "in epistola Theriaci et veneni reprobavi quam ad Glaucenem transmisi" (ed. de 1560, ap. Comin. de Trid., Vol. IX, f. 120 V, ligne 13 a.f.) (Bouyges, Notes. p. 36, No. 64).
Simonet, Glosario, p. CXLVIII, Note 4 L. Leclerc, Histoire de la médecine ... t. 2, p. 108. Al-bidaya (“The beginning”): fa-qala’l-hakim Muhammad ben Rushd ... Amma baado hamdi-ellah fa-innaho saâlanî man wajibat allaya taâthihi an othbîta laho ala tariq-el-borhan al-tibbi ma qalaho-el-attibî fi-el-mawadi’ allati yostâmâl fiha al-Tiryâq .... That is, The wiseman Muhammad Ibn Rushd said ... After thanking ALLAH (God), he asked me, who his obeying is a mandate on me, to prove to him using the medical proof way what physicians said in the positions or areas that were used by the Tiryâq ....

(5) Jumla min-al-Adwiya al-Mufrada (“A set of Single Drugs”)

Tradu. Hébr Vatican 357; steinschneider, ZDMG, t. 47, p. 343; steinschneider, Heb. Uebers ... p. 676.

(6) Maqāla fl Hummiyyāt al-āfān (“Treatise on the Infectious Fevers”)

In the Escurial book number 884/5, there is a letter for Ibn Rushd without a specific title. In that letter he talks about al-Hummiyyāt “The Fevers”, and Ibn Abī Usaiî’a mentions two letters specialize in al-Hummiyyāt:

1 - Maqāla fl Hummiyyāt al-āfān.
2 - Masa’il fl Nawaîb al-Humma (“Questions in the Fever Attacks”).

The beginning of Ibn Rushd’s letter is: Qal ... Qad yagib an yu’taqâd anna Zaman al-Nawba Huwa fi’l al-Ḥarara al-Ghariziyyah fi już’ al-Khält al-Fā’il lil-Humma .... That is, he says ... it might be a must to be believed that the time length of the Attack is the result of the Bazal (or Instinctive) Temperature in the part of the mixture which causes the Fever ....

Al-Nihāya (“The end”) of the letter is:
Wa-amma al-Humma al-Dai’ma fahia athnano Ûfonateha fi mawadi’ al-Hudoom al-thalatha. That is, and the chronic fever is the concentration of its Infection in the three digestive locations.

(7) Kalam fl Ikhtisar al-‘ilal wa al-amrād li-Galinos (“A talk in summarization of the Diseases and symptoms Due to Galen”)

De morborum et symptomatum differentiis et causis.

It is in Escurial, MS 884 p. 42-58 and it consists of 6 essays.

(8) Maqāla fl Aṣnāf al-mizâj (“Treatise on the kinds of Temperament”)

Renan thinks (Renan, Averroës, p. 78) that this Maqāla is the one that Ibn Abī Usaiî’a mentions under the name of: Talkhīs Kitab al-mizâj (“The summarization of the book of the Temperament”), and it is different from the Treatise of Galen which is called De temperamento.
The beginning of Talkhīs Kitab al-mizāj is:
Qala al-Qādi, al-Imam, ... Abū'l-walīd Ibn Rushd ... al-Gharad fī hatha-l-Qawl an yuḥfas ān ādād asnaf al-mizājat fī naw'ēn min anwa' al-ajsam al-mutashabihati'l ajsa‘ ... .

That is, The Judge, The Iman, ... etc., Abū'l-walīd Ibn Rushd ... says:

The purpose of this saying is that the number of kinds of temperaments is to be examined in a kind of the kinds of the bodies of similar parts ... (Escurial 884/4, Dermenbourg p. 95).

In the Escurial book number 881, Dermenbourg p. 91-92, there exists a set of three letters written in the same hand writing summarizing some of Galen’s books and most likely these letters were written by Ibn Rushd.

(9) Talkhīs istuqussāt Galinos ("The summarization of Galen’s Elements")

This is a summarization of the book: De elementis secundum Hippocratem. The beginning:

Qala annaho lamna Kana-l-ustuquss Huwa allathi yursam bi-annaho asghar al-agṣa’ al-mawjdoda fī‘l shai’ ... qulto amma’l qareeba minha fa kama qāl wa-amma al-bai’dā fa min Ḥaq-el-sinā‘ah an ta’khothaha mustakillah min al-i’lm al-tabī‘e.

That is, he said that when the element was interpreted as the smallest part existing in the thing ... I said that, the close of it is as he said and the far is the right of the industry to take it independently from the natural science.

(10) Talkhīs Kitab al-mizāj li-Galinos ("The summarization of the Temperament book of Galen")

The name of the book is: De temperamentis. The summarization contains three essays. Ibn Rush finished publishing this summarization in April/May 1192, and he wrote it to his sons Abū’l Qasim and Abū Muhammad.

(11) Talkhīs Kitab al-quwā al-tabī‘iyya li-Galinos ("The Summarization of the Natural Faculties book of Galen")

The name of the book is: De facultatibus naturalibus Libri III. (Escurial, Mss 881-Dermenbourg p. 92 (22 pages) and 884/2 Dermenbourg p. 95 (35 pages)).

The beginning: Qala Innaho lamma Kan Ḥabona fī‘l-l Ḥaywan wa homa al-Ḥis wa’l- Ḥaraka al-Iradiyyah fī‘l makan wa Fī‘l-l mushtarakan lil-nabat wa’l-Ḥaiwan ... . That is, he said that when there was here two actions due to the animal: The sense and the Voluntary movement in the place, and two common actions for the plant and the animal ... .
(12) Talkhīs Kitab al-Hummiyyāt ("The summarization of the Fevers book")

This book is for Galen and its name is: De differentiis febrium. The beginning does not exist in the book, and in the whole book there is "He said" and then "I say" and the beginning of "He said" starts as follows:

wa jami' al-Awram towallid al-Hummiyyāt Ithā wasalat Hararatoha Ilā' qalb Kama tāqaddam . . .

That is, all of the Tumors generate the Fevers if its temperature reach to the heart as said before . . . .

The summarization ended on Wednesday, February 11, 1193.

(13) Fi Ḥifz al-sihha ("In the Hygiene")

In the same book that exists in the Escurial number 884-7, there is a book for Ibn Rushd without a specific title, he talks in it about the Hygiene. Renan (in Averroës ... p. 76) thought that this book is the sixth book of al-Kullīyyāt. Derenbourg compared both books and he found out that Renan's thought was wrong.

The beginning is:

Adama-Allah I'zakum, ... etc. Ḥifz-o-sihha yakoono amrain ahadohoma al-l'ñaya lijoo-dat al-Hadm wal-thaniyah al-l'ñaya bi-stifragh fodool al-Hadm . . . .

That is, may ALLAH (God) continue your proudness, ... etc. The Hygiene is two things: one of them is the taking care of the goodness of Digestion and the second is the taking care of the Desiccation of the Digestion waste . . . .