First Century Medicine

Excerpt from 'The Enemies of Jupiter', Roman mysteries Series, Caroline Lawrence. p. 90-91

Would you like to know my special secret? The best

Lupus nodded.

medicine of all?

Egnatius leaned forward and whispered.

'Urine'

Lupus opened his eyes wide.

That's right: urine. It's free. It's yours. Morning urine is best, middle of the stream, especially if you've eaten lots of cabbage the day before.'

Lupus shook his head in disbelief.

'Really!' said Egnatius and recited, 'It's good for jaundice, rheumatism, gout, asthma, skin ulcers, burns, wounds, headaches, ear infections, snake bites, baldness, leprosy, obesity, fever, insomnia and fatigue...Oh you want to know if you drink the urine? Of course you drink it. But you can also soak your feet in it for ringworm, rub it in your scalp for baldness, and dilute a few drops in water for an eye bath...If you drink a little of your own urine every morning it will protect you wonderfully against pestilence.'