1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910794221103321
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	Titolo	'Ali ibn Sahl Rabban at-Tabari's Health regimen or "Book of the pearl" : Arabic text, English translation, introduction and indices / / by Oliver Kahl
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston : , : BRILL, , [2021] ©2021
	ISBN	90-04-44589-7
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
	Collana	Islamic philosophy, theology, and science ; ; Volume 115
	Disciplina	610
	Soggetti	Medicine, Arab
		Health
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
	Sommario/riassunto	"The Arabic treatise edited and translated here was written in the middle of the 9th century CE by Ali ibn Sahl Rabban at-Tabari, a Christian convert to Islam and one of the most remarkable thinkers of his time. The text can be described as a manual towards the preservation of health, addressed directly to the Abbasid caliph al-Mutawakkil and his household. It represents not only the oldest extant specimen of its kind, but is also distinguished by its largely non-technical language, as well as by a narrative style that creates an unusual interface with classical Arabic prose literature. The Greek and Indian sources upon which at-Tabarirelied testify to the synthetic and inclusive character of early Islamic medicine"