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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Aelius Aristides and the sacred tales Introduction The composition of the sacred tales Date of composition Method of composition Motives for composition The sacred tales as an autobiography The ancient readers of the sacred tales A narrative of redemption Society, disease and medicine in the sacred tales of Aristides Introduction The Graeco-Roman health-care system Towards a definition of a medical discourse Medicine in the Graeco- Roman world Roman medicine and its Greek influences Dreams The sick, medicine and physicians in the world of the sacred tales The place of the sick in society Medical discourse in the sacred tales The physicians in the sacred tales Towards a medical history of Aelius Aristides Falling ill Aristides and Asclepius Wider contexts Reconsidering private religions; religion and religious experience in the sacred tales of Aelius Aristides Introduction Theology The myth of Asclepius Divination, oracles and dreams Dreams Oracles Visual culture and social forms of cult- organisation Cult, festivals and games The power of images.
Sommario/riassunto	Aelius Aristides' Sacred Tales offer a unique opportunity to examine how an educated man of the Second Century CE came to terms with illness. The experiences portrayed in the Tales disclose an understanding of illness in both religious and medical terms. Aristides

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was a devout worshipper of Asclepius while at the same time being a patient of some of the most distinguished physicians of his day. This monograph offers a textual analysis of the Sacred Tales in the context of the so-called Second Sophistic; medicine and the medical use of dream interpretation; and religion, with particular emphasis on the cult of Asclepius and the visual means used to convey religious content.