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Rosen. Cameralism and the Concept of Medical Police, In Bull. of the History of Medicine, 1953 [photocopie]

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- [\[anonyme ou collectif\] Bulletin of the history of medicine](#)
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is of the greatest interest in this connection. This chapter discusses in detail a large number of activities and topics that affect public welfare and the health of the subjects. Among these are crimes of violence, poor relief, care of the sick, prevention of epidemics, regulation of medical and surgical practice, securing of pure food, cleanliness of cities, methods of procuring abortions, and duelling.

Clearly, by the third quarter of the eighteenth century there had come into being in the German states a system of administrative thought and behavior which referred all activities to the welfare of the absolute state as the norm. This was the science of police. Taking very practical conditions of security as a point of departure, the theoreticians and practitioners of *Polizeiwissenschaft* evolved a body of ideas and practices designed to be used by statesmen in the pursuit of clearly specified political objectives. This concept of public administration also encompassed problems of health and welfare, accepting these as the responsibility of the state.

This political and administrative line of development was paralleled by an equally significant growth of interest among medical men in the relations of health problems to society and in particular to the state. Beginnings of this trend are already present in the early seventeenth century. Among the physicians who concerned themselves with the relations of government to health, the Tyrolean Hippolyt Guarinonius (1571-1654) deserves attention.⁴¹ Descended from a Milanese family that had settled in Trent, he studied medicine at Padua, and later became physician to a home for women at Hall in the Tyrol. There he wrote his work on hygiene of which the first part was published, in 1610, at Ingolstadt under the title *Greuel der Verwüstung menschlichen Geschlechts*.⁴² A continuation of this work, prepared over forty years later, is extant only in manuscript. Guarinonius was a devout Catholic and his book is imbued with religious ideas, a circumstance which finds most explicit expression in the close connection between hygiene and morals. Various problems of personal and public hygiene are discussed, abuses are indicated, and improvements are proposed.

In the first part of his "little book," as he called it, of 1350 folio pages, Guarinonius treated such general questions as the average duration of life, the relation between body and mind, and so on. He then proceeds to discuss housing and dwelling hygiene, food control, the use and abuse

⁴¹ Fischer, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, pp. 282-292.

⁴² The Abomination of the Devastation of the Human Race.



