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

Auteur : Foucault, Michel

Présentation de la fiche

Cote**b007_f0470**

Source**Boite_007-12-chem | Police médicale allemande.**

Langue**Français**

TypeFiche**Lecture**

Personnes citées[Rosen, Georges](#)

Références bibliographiques

- [\[anonyme ou collectif\] Bulletin of the history of medicine](#)
- [Rosen, Cameralism and the Concept of medical police, In Bull. history of medicine 1953](#)

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

Références éditoriales

Éditeuréquipe FFL (projet ANR *Fiches de lecture de Michel Foucault*) ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

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Notice créée par [équipe FFL](#) Notice créée le 22/07/2020 Dernière modification le 23/04/2021

to questions of medical police. Later, in 1782, Baldinger issued one of his official addresses under the title *Über Medicinal-Verfassung*. In it he emphasized that medicine was in considerable measure a political science (*Staatswissenschaft*), and that the best medical legislation would remain ineffective unless physicians were well-trained and the people enlightened.

The increasing concentration of interest in problems of medical police at this time is further evidenced by the appearance in rapid succession of several other significant works, each contributing to the subject in its own way.⁵⁶ In 1777 there appeared the *Fundamenta politiae medicae*⁵⁷ by J. W. Baumer (1719-1788). Although this book dealt at length with public health matters, it also included legal medicine and veterinary medicine, indicating that these fields were still incompletely differentiated. It is worth noting that Baumer employed the works of Wolff and Justi in his book. More important was the publication at Düsseldorf, in 1778, of the *Patriotische Vorschläge zur Verbesserung der Medicinalanstalten* . . .⁵⁸ by J. P. Brinkman (1746-1785). After practicing at Cleves and Düsseldorf for many years, Brinkmann went to Russia, in 1784, as personal physician to two grand dukes, but died soon after.⁵⁹ Throughout his career, he was concerned with problems of public health and welfare. In his book, Brinkman offers suggestions to improve the health of the rural population, with particular attention to the quality of surgery and midwifery. Like Rickmann, to whom, however, he does not refer, Brinkmann distinguishes diseases that are natural and therefore unavoidable, and those that are man made. In order to increase the security of the state, government should endeavor to prevent misery, disease, and death. Mortality can be decreased through appropriate medical police measures in various areas of public health. All causes that prevent the population from obtaining the means of existence must be removed through public action. Likewise, the moral behavior of the people must be regulated by law so that dissipation will not sap their vital energies. Medical care must be provided and epidemics controlled. Throughout his book, Brinkmann frequently made use of the term medical police.

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Having surveyed the origin and development of the concept of medical police up to the last quarter of the eighteenth century, let us assess the

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 40-41, 124.

⁵⁷ Foundations of medical police.

⁵⁸ Patriotic proposals for the improvement of medical institutions.

⁵⁹ Karl Sudhoff: *Joh. Peter Brinkmann, ein niederrheinischer Arzt im 18. Jahrhundert*, Düsseldorf, 1902.

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