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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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Présentation de la fiche

Coteb007_f0456

SourceBoite_007-12-chem | Police médicale allemande.

LangueFrançais

TypeFicheLecture

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

people. Since prosperity and welfare manifest themselves in growth of population, means must be taken to guard the health of the people so that their number may increase. A governmental program must concern itself with the maintenance and supervision of midwives, care of orphans, appointment of physicians and surgeons, protection against plague and other contagious diseases, excessive use of spirituous beverages and tobacco, inspection of food and water, measures for cleaning and draining towns, maintenance of hospitals, and provision of poor relief.

Seckendorff has been called the Adam Smith of cameralism,²⁰ an illuminating if not entirely apt comparison. His work already contains in embryo a program for the management of material and human resources, which at the hands of his successors was developed into a significant branch of public administration. Known as the science of police (*Polizey-wissenschaft*), this branch of administrative theory and practice provided the basis upon which the concept of medical police could be developed.

The same may be said of Becher, another writer of this period to whom we have already referred. For Becher the object of a proper police is attained through good administration and social regulation. It is the office of the rulers "by good laws to maintain, protect, govern and control their subjects in the true religion; love and knowledge of God; in good morals, discipline, honor and integrity; in good and various sciences; with respect to their support and legitimate earnings, their health and life, also legitimate increase. In these five points consists the origin of all laws and the foundation of authority and obedience." How are these five departments of government to be carried on? The answer is that five *collegia* or bureaus should be created to have charge of these areas of administration. One of these should be a *collegium vitale* with the responsibility of protecting the health of the subjects.^{20a}

Even more specific proposals along the lines suggested by Obrecht, Seckendorff, and Becher were made during the latter half of the seventeenth century by Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz (1646-1716), the great German philosopher, scientist, and politician. In all his many sided practical activities, Leibniz on numerous occasions referred to health problems and to modes of government action in such matters. A memorandum of September 1678, prepared for Duke Johann Friedrich of Hannover and headed "Thoughts on State Administration," proposed the creation of a "political topography or a description of the present

²⁰ Small, *op. cit.*, p. 69.

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MSS ^{20a} Small, *op. cit.*, pp. 124-125.

