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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\_f0466

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

Also of the women appointed to supervise midwives, midwives, lesser female attendants and nurses,

As well as all kinds of unauthorized fraudulent and impudent healers such as old women, cutpurses, crystal gazers, hedge parsons, hermits, jugglers, urine prophets, Jews, calf doctors, tramps, charlatans, informers, fanatics, pseudo-Paracelists, quacks, rat catchers, charmers, exorcists, sorcerers, gypsies, etc.

And then finally the patients or the sick themselves

What these have to do and how they are to be supervised

For the particular use and advantage of all Lords, Courts, Republics and Communities

Collected from the Holy Scriptures, Canon and Secular Law, Police Ordinances and many reliable works by Dr. Ludwig von Hörnigk. . . .

From this summary, which gives the flavor of the book, it is evident that Hörnigk touches on numerous aspects of health and disease that have social implications. Especially noteworthy in this connection are the first two words of his title, *Politia medica*, which may be translated as medical police. Furthermore, his exposition is based on a number of medical ordinances and regulations, particularly those of the cities Frankfurt and Worms, and of the state of Hessen-Kassel. In fact, he chose to present his book in the form of a medical ordinance, to which he added his discussion in the guise of a commentary. Hörnigk's book is not original in its views, but it does emphasize that health is a community problem and that it is up to the constituted authorities to act when necessary to preserve it.

Governmental supervision of public health was also advocated at the end of the seventeenth century by Conrad Berthold Behrens (1660-1736), a physician of Hildesheim. His book, *Medicus legalis oder Gesetzmässige Bestell—und Ausübung der Artzney-Kunst*,<sup>44</sup> published at Helmstedt in 1696, does not deal with legal medicine as one might suspect from the title, but rather with matters of community health. Based on the premise that governmental authorities are obligated by the law of nature to care for the health of their subjects, Behrens argues that such provision must rest on two major forms of action, prevention of disease, and its treatment when it occurs.<sup>45</sup> Prevention must concern itself with the constitution of the air and with nutrition. Behrens also deals with the subject of infection and other matters of public health interest.

Attention to the obligations of the state in matters of health and disease expanded still further in the eighteenth century. This is clearly indicated by the circumstance that a number of medical students wrote dis-

<sup>45</sup> Fischer, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 327.

<sup>44</sup> The Legal Physician, or the legal organization and practice of the art of medicine.



