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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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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](#)

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Références éditoriales

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sertations on the subject. One of the earliest by Elias Friedrich Heister is entitled *De principum cura circa sanitatem subditorum* (On the care of the ruler for the health of the subjects). Published in 1738 at Helmstedt, this essay treats of various measures that a prince ought to take to maintain the health of his people. Among the subjects considered are nutrition, abuse of alcoholic beverages, and contagious diseases. Heister's essay does not refer to any of the earlier writers on the subject, nor does it exhibit any original features, but it does show that matters of public health were already being discussed at universities.

Dissertations on related subjects were also presented at other German universities. In 1753, J. G. Sonnenkalb graduated at Leipzig with a dissertation on hindrances to public health.⁴⁶ The topics with which he dealt comprised impure air, poor hospital conditions, inexperienced midwifery, brothels, and frauds and abuses in the sale of food. The ruler's concern in preserving the health of his subjects is the subject of a dissertation with which A. C. Hammer graduated at Marburg in 1768.⁴⁷ Finally, attention may be called to two dissertations published at Leipzig in 1771, both dealing with the removal of obstacles to public health.⁴⁸ These writings do not contain anything original, but they show that teachers at the universities were imparting to their students an interest in problems of public health. This is very clear in the case of the Leipzig dissertations which were all written under the influence of Anton Wilhelm Plaz (1708-1784) who was professor from 1733 till his death and, for the last ten years of his life, was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Among his writings is also a *Dissertatio de removendis sanitatis publicae impedimentis*, Leipzig, 1771.

Interest in health as a question of public policy entered upon a new stage of development during the second half of the century through the creation of the concept of *medical police*. Influenced by the doctrines of the political philosophers and the theoreticians of police science, physicians adopted the police concept and began to apply it to medical and health problems. As far as is known, the term medical police was first employed in 1764 by Wolfgang Thomas Rau (1721-1772) in his book *Gedanken von dem Nutzen und der Nothwendigkeit einer medicinischen Policeyordnung in einem Staat*.⁴⁹ Rau was for a time municipal physician in his

⁴⁶ J. G. Sonnenkalb: *De sanitatis publicae obstaculis*, Leipzig, 1753.

⁴⁷ A. C. Hemmer: *De principum ratione subditorum conservandi sanitatem*, Marburg, 1768.

⁴⁸ J. G. Arnold: *De removendis sanitatis publicae impedimentis*, Leipzig, 1771; Christian Liebing: *De amoliendis sanitatis publicae impedimentis*, Leipzig, 1771.

⁴⁹ Thoughts on the utility and necessity of a medical police ordinance for a state.



