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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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native city of Ulm and occupied similar posts in other communities.<sup>50</sup> Basing his argument on the political theory of Wolff, he went on to point out that every monarch needs healthy subjects who will be able to fulfill their obligations in peace and war. For this reason, the state must care for the health of the people. The medical profession is obligated not only to treat the sick, but also to supervise the health of the population. But the value of these activities on the part of the medical profession is in large measure cancelled out by the obnoxious and nefarious acts of charlatans and quacks. As Rau put it, the misuse of medicine by untrained persons is as harmful as the discovery of gunpowder. In order to have competent medical personnel, it is necessary to enact a medical police ordinance which will regulate medical education, supervise apothecary shops and hospitals, prevent epidemics, combat quackery, and make possible the enlightenment of the public. Rau was quite aware of the difficulties that such a program would encounter, especially in the matter of public health education. Concerning this problem, he remarked that the mass of the people could not be reached through books since "no one reads anything." He did propose, however, to use the almanacs which were very popular to spread useful precepts on diet and the maintenance of health, on the care of pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women in childbed, on the care of children, and protection against endemic or epidemic disease. All these considerations clearly indicated the need for a medical police code. Rau's small book (44 octavo pages) passed through several editions and received considerable attention.

The idea of medical police, that is, the creation of a medical policy by government and its implementation through administrative regulation, rapidly achieved popularity. The influence of Rau's book is evident in the work issued in 1771 by Christian Rickmann, professor at Jena.<sup>51</sup> Entitled *Von dem Einfluss der Arzneiwissenschaft auf das Wohl des Staats und dem besten Mittel zur Rettung des Lebens*.<sup>52</sup> Rickmann's book made a strong and demonstrable impression upon his contemporaries. Based on the writings of Sonnenfels and Rau, he also advocated the creation of a code of medical police, and urged the need for a physician to compile a complete treatise on medical police. Such a work would have to show how to care for the health of the people through improvement or removal of many conditions harmful to the community, furthermore

<sup>50</sup> Fischer, *op. cit.*, vol. 2, pp. 14, 39, 122-123.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 14, 39, 123.

<sup>52</sup> The influence of medicine on the welfare of the state and the best means for saving lives.

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