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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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how the sick and the infirm may obtain the assistance they need, and how to combat and control epidemics. Rickmann also dealt vigorously with the problem of quackery, and suggested a number of reforms. Of considerable interest is his plan for a sickness insurance scheme.

Another noteworthy point is his division of diseases into two major groups based on causation. The one he calls *natural*; it includes particularly the contagious and epidemic diseases. The second group Rickmann terms *man-made*. These diseases occur more frequently than those in the first group and are "simply the physical consequences of moral laxity." Among the *man-made* diseases, he distinguishes between those due to the patient's own derelictions and those caused by the transgressions of others. These distinctions are significant because they present in a crude and undeveloped manner an early formulation of the concept of disease as a product of social and cultural maladjustment, a view which was developed more fully and concretely in the nineteenth century.

Other physicians also turned their attention to various problems of medical police during this period. In 1773, J. F. Zückert (1737-1778), a Berlin physician, published a book on the best means to prevent the depopulation of a country when epidemics prevail.<sup>53</sup> He attributed the origin of epidemics to meteorological conditions as well as to the effects of such elements as famine, fear, and other misfortunes that result from poor harvests, earthquakes, wars, and sieges.<sup>54</sup> Nevertheless, Zückert felt that an epidemic could be nipped in the bud, given a sufficient number of hospitals and the necessary medical police ordinances. Indeed, through good medical police organization it may even be possible to prevent the spread of an epidemic to a neighboring state. Zückert also called attention to the need for popular enlightenment in health matters, but he was aware that the common people were often apathetic to their own best interests. They must therefore be regarded as children in whose interest and for whose welfare the necessary measures must be taken. When affected by contagious diseases, they must be isolated and supplied with food and medical attention.

Two years later, Ernst Gottfried Baldinger (1738-1804), professor of medicine at Göttingen (1773-83), one of the best known physicians of his time, began to issue his journal, the *Magazin vor Ärzte*.<sup>55</sup> In the preface he announced that the periodical would devote itself preeminently

<sup>53</sup> Joh. Friedrich Zückert: *Von den wahren Mitteln, die Entvölkerung eines Landes in epidemischen Zeiten zu verhüten*, Berlin, 1773.

<sup>54</sup> Fischer, *op. cit.*, vol. 2, pp. 123, 136. <sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 39-40.



