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Dr. J. E. KROON.

First clinical Instruction in Holland.



LEYDE (HOLLANDE). — E. J. BRILL.

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FIRST CLINICAL INSTRUCTION IN HOLLAND,

BY DR. J. E. KROON (*Groningen*).

In general it has always been supposed that the first clinical instruction in Holland was given at Utrecht. In his elaboration of Haeser's book, Israëls tells us this 1):

„One find already written down in times of old slight traces of instruction at the sick-bed. Later on, first at Padua in 1578 under Albertino Bottoni and Marco degli Oddi, then at Pavia and at Genoa, we hear made mention of a very imperfect form of clinical instruction. This institution derives its proper source from Holland. Utrecht had since the year 1636 a „Collegium practicum” under van der Straten; in the same year, a similar institution was founded at Leiden by Otto Heurnius and Ewald Screvelius.”

Loncq 2), in speaking of Stratenus and the latter's clinical instruction says: „Before him, no one gave any, either in the Netherlands or elsewhere, with the exception perhaps of Padua and Pavia.”

Kouwer and Laméris 3) also say that: „Stratenus in 1636 opened a collegium practicum, where the students had to examine the patient at

1) H. Haeser, *Leerboek van de geschiedenis der Geneeskunde, naar de 2de geheel omgewerkte Hoogduitsche uitgave in het Nederduitsch vrij bewerkt door Dr. A. H. Israëls. Utrecht en Amsterdam 1859. (A History of Medicine. Freely adapted and done in Dutch by Dr. A. H. Israëls. Page 607, note 3).*

2) G. J. Loncq C.J.z., *Historische schets der Utrechtsche hoogeschool tot hare verheffing in 1815. Utrecht 1886. (Historical Sketch of the Utrecht High School until its being raised to the rank of University in 1815. Page 103, last line).*

3) B. J. Kouwer en H. J. Laméris, *Iets uit de geschiedenis der klinieken voor Heel- en Verloskunde der Rijks-Universiteit te Utrecht enz., Kampen 1908. (Remarks on the History of the Clinics for Medical Science and Obstetry at the University of Utrecht. Page 5).*

the bedside, and that in this, he was imitated the same year by his tutor Otto Heurnius at Leiden."

And finally, if we keep solely to the Dutch authors, Suringar 1) concludes the same thing from the following quotation taken from a speech 2) made by Stratenus in the large auditorium of Utrecht University on March 17th 1636:

„Quod igitur felix et faustum sit, artem medicam docturo hi erunt scopi, ut vestris, studiosi adolescentes, progressibus, Academiae decori et Reipublicae utilitati quam optime consulam; quos ut assequar, cum gemina mihi demandata sit provincia, anatomica et medicinae pars practica, haec aetivis, illa hybernis pertractanda mensibus, id enitar, ut hoc in loco hyeme, anatomen non solum auribus hauriatis, sed et in theatro, sectionum autopsia, non lubrico ad eam gressu ducamini; aestate vero praxin, non tantum verbis delineatam dem, sed qualibet occasione, in publico Nosocomio (cujus aegris curandis illustrium et praepotentium Ordinum jussu praesum) oculis vestris veritatem dictorum subjiciam; ut ita utrique sensui viam ad nostram disciplinam aperiã, et vos non tam theoreticos, quam practicos Reipublicae reddam. Addo, si quibus ulterius progressis lubeat, praxeos specimina, consultationum, ut vocant, forma, trutinare, vel auditis coram aegrorum querelis, signa ad morbos, symptomata ad causas referre, de singulis primo sententiam dicere, deinde nostrum judicium intelligere, atque ita sese, ad cujusquemodi aegris bene ex artis numa consulendum praeparare, ejus exercitii nec ibi deerunt vera (non ficta) exempla, nec mihi animus, ut viam praemonstrem et veluti manu ducam, ad praecipuum artis nostrae finem."

The deducation that Stratenus has given clinical instruction has probably been drawn from the words pronounced in this discourse. As this question interested me much, I made in the Archives of Utrecht University, a minute investigation, which however has not been very successful.

The Acta Senatus in the archives of the town could not throw any light on this question, so important for me, as they only begin after 1640.

The Recorder of Utrecht S. Muller Fz. Esq. was kind enough to tell me that he himself is not yet convinced of the priority of clinical

1) G. J. B. Suringar, Stichting der school voor klinisch onderwijs te Leiden enz. Nederl. Tijdschr. voor Geneesk. 1862. (The founding of the School of Clinical Instruction at Leiden etc. Dutch Review of Medical Science, 1862, page 516).

2) Suringar, l. c., page 528.

lessons at Utrecht, and he also advised me to examine the Statutes of the States of Utrecht of that period, as the hospitals were entrusted to the care of the States of that province. If Stratenus in 1636 had given clinical lessons, then the States of Utrecht must have granted him and his students permission to visit one or more hospitals. I found no mention of such a permission in the afore mentioned Statutes of the years 1634, 1635 and 1636.

What do we find mentioned about clinical instruction at Leiden? Schotel 1) tells us:

„In the faculty of medicine many others have shed great glory on the University and among these are Johannes and Otto Heurnius, the former of whom was not only a professor of Anatomy for 30 years but was also one of the two first professors, who gave clinical instruction at Leiden.”

On whose authority this communication of Schotel is based, I do not know. In his notes on page 374 he refers us to Suringar without mentioning the page.

I think he has made a mistake, and that instead of „the former” (Johannes Heurnius), we must read „the latter” (Otto). Certainly Johannes Heurnius was not a professor for thirty years. I also remark that he does not say who was the other 2) of the „two first professors”.

Schotel therefore does not throw much light upon the question. Gurlt 3) says about Johan van Heurn: „Er war der Erste, der den klinischen Unterricht in Holland einfuhrte”, and a little farther we find on the same page: „Wenn auch die chirurgische Ausbeute aus van Heurne's Schriften eine nur geringe ist, wie Dies bei einem medicinischen Kliniker nicht anders zu erwarten ist . . .” etc.

But it is not known either from where Gurlt gets his information, and it remains possible that Schotel has been his authority too.

But with referenee to this point one has never taken notice of the following passage 4) in the „Statutes of the Curators” dated Dec. 4th 1591, a remarkable document which came under my eyes when I was working at my dissertation 5):

1) G. D. J. Schotel, *De Academie te Leiden in de 16de, 17de en 18de eeuw*, Leiden 1875. (The Academy of Leiden in the 16th, 17th and 18th century, page 145, see bottom).

2) It may be that Scriverlius is meant here.

3) E. Gurlt, *Geschichte der Chirurgie und ihrer Ausübung*, III, page 287.

4) Res. van Cur. (Statutes of Curators, Volulme II, fol. 71 verso).

5) J. E. Kroon, *Bijdragen tot de geschiedenis van het geneeskundig onder-*

„It is proposed that the doctors and professors of medicine of this town should visit the sick in the hospitals and should invite their pupils to do the same in order to get better acquainted with medicines and their various uses; that their salaries should be increased accordingly, especially that of Dr. Peter Paeu on account of his entire devotion to anatomy and further on account of the great expectations which are entertained about him that he should bring honour to his country and his University. At the next meeting this proposal is to be discussed and a resolution passed in accordance with the requirements of the University and the furtherance of its prosperity" 1).

So this is an authentic paragraph, in which there is also question of clinical instruction, and because of its official character it is of no less value for us, than Stratenus's speech, which as a fact contained but a promise. Whether the request of the afore mentioned professors was granted by the Curators, is just as uncertain as whether Stratenus kept his promise, but there is no reason to doubt the goodwill of the former or the good faith of the latter. It is known of the Leiden curators, how they willingly seized every opportunity to enhance the greatness of the University committed to their care, and we cannot imagine that they would have objected to a practical measure, which could but have been useful for medical instruction, nor can we accept that the professors made only a mere pretence when they proposed an improvement. Therefore as long as the contrary has not been proved, we may

wijs aan de Leidsche Universiteit 1575—1625, Leiden 1911. (Contributions to the History of Medical Instruction at the Leiden University, 1575—1625).

1) The original in Dutch says:

„D. D. in de medicijnen

Op 't voorslagh omme de D. D. en de professoren in de medicijnen alhier te belasten mit de visitatien van crancken ende siecken in de gasthuijsen ende daertoe oock hare auditoores aen te leijden ende sulx in den medicynen ende 't gebruijck van dien t'harer meerder vorderinge te doen oeffenen, ende 't selve doende hunluyden opsicht van dien haare jaarlyxe wedden ter redelijkheid te verhoghen ende sonderlings omme D. Peter Paeu zijne wedde te redelyckerwijse te verhoogen, door dien hij hem ter anatomije geheel begeeft daertoe gewilliglijck gebruijken laet, ende daerinne van grooten hoope es omme van tijden ende wijlen ter eere van 't vaderlants der universitijts wel leeven es alsoo 't selve gehouden in naerder bedencken ende advijs jegens de eerste aenstaende vergaderinge omme daerinne alsdan sodanige besluit te werden genomen als den staet van de universiteijt ende de vordernisse van dien dat eenigsints sullen mogen uijteijsschen."

reasonably accept, that real instruction at the sick-bed has been given by both Stratenus and the Leiden professors. But we must not lose sight of the fact that the document of the Curators dates from 1591 and is therefore 45 years older, than the document on which Utrecht claims rest, from which must be deduced, that they began this most useful extension of medical instruction much earlier at Leiden than at Utrecht. It is of no importance that the Statutes of the Curators do not speak further about this matter. We repeatedly find official documents of the Curators, of which no mention is made in the Statutes, and this can be explained by the Curators having transacted much business by letter, as the greater number of them lived out of Leiden. In the Statutes of the Curators we often find decrees of the senate mentioned, of which there is not a word found in the Acta Senatus. Moreover we must not forget, that the need of exact notes was not so much felt at that time as it would be now.

It is even quite possible that van Heurn already gave clinical instruction before Dec. 4, 1591 — for it was no unusual thing at the Leiden University at that period for instruction to be given, which was not paid for till some time later, probably according to the quality of the lessons given.

There are numbers of petitions 1) of persons who ask for a honorarium for lessons given by them in past years and of minor officials for services in the Hortus etc. So it may be possible that under „praxis medica” we must understand clinical instruction, but through the insufficiency of classical Latin for modern ideas, this will be difficult to interpret.

This one point at any rate is certain, that as early as 1591, the importance of clinical instruction was understood by van Heurn.

1) See about this: „Statutes of Curators”, Volume III, Petitions of Reinier de Bont. February 10th and 11th 1600, f^o. 71 verso.

February 8th 1606, f^o. 144.

Otto Heurnius. August 8th 1603, f^o. 124 verso.

February 9th and May 15th 1607, f^o. 152 and 153 verso.

February 7th and 8th 1614, f^o. 342.

February 10th and 11th 1616, f^o. 363.

In Volume IV Elie d'Ingelsch, servant at the Anatomy classes,

February 8th 1621, f^o. 95.

August 7th 1623, f^o. 137.

Jan Jansz van Es alias Jan Oom, May 11th 1621, f^o. 102.









