

**D.C. DANIELSSEN: A
BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649310548

D.C. Danielssen: a biographical sketch by J. Brunchorst

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Cover @ 2017

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Apr 22, 1909

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D. C. DANIELSSEN

Bergens Museums Aarvog 1893.

D. C. Danielssen.

En nekrolog.

af

Dr. J. Brunchorst.

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A biographical sketch

By

Dr. J. Brunchorst.

Bergens museum, Bergens by og den norske videnskab — naturvidenskabens saavel som medicinen — har iaar ved overlæge Danielssens død, lidt et stort tab, der vil være vanskeligt at erstatte.

Naar Bergens museum nu er en institution, som ethvert land kunde være stolt af, saa er fortjenesten herfor i første linje Danielssens. Naar Bergen nu er noget mere end en i sine materielle interesser opgaaende handelsby, saa skyldes det i ikke ringe grad Danielssens utrættelige virksomhed paa de forskjellige omraader i disse mange aar. Og i vort lands videnskabelige historie i dette aarhundrede staar hans navn indskrevet som en af de mest virksomme og mest fremrageude. Faa mænd i vort land har som han havt evnen og viljen til gennem et langt liv i utrættelig virksomhed at fremme den bys aandelige liv, til hvilken han var knyttet, og faa mænd i vort land har arbeidet saa ivrigt og uegenlyttigt som han i videnskabens tjeneste. Om end hans alder tilsgæde, at hans bane snart maatte være afsluttet, saa er derfor alligevel det savn han efterlader vanskeligt at udfylde.

I.

Daniel Cornelius Danielssen, søn af urmager Danielssen, blev født i Bergen den 4de juli 1815. Hjemmets økonomiske kaar var ikke særdeles glimrende og i 13 aars alderen maatte Danielssen tage ansættelse som elev ved et apothek i den hensigt at blive farmaceut. Denne stilling blev han dog efter 4 aars forløb nødt til at opgive paa grund af en hofteledsbetændelse, som holdt ham fængslet til sygeleiet i 1½ aar og som bevirkede en varig halvhed. Efterat være kommet sig igjen tog han 20 aar gammel præliminær-eksamen¹⁾ og begyndte straks at studere medicin. Tre aar senere,

¹⁾ En eksamen, der gav adgang til universitetet, men ikke til alle eksamener ved dette. Den adskilte sig fra den egentlige studenteksamen (artium) bl. a. ved ikke at kræve kjendskab til klassiske sprog. Er nu ophævet.

The Bergen Museum, the city of Bergen itself, and Norwegian science — natural and medical — have all, this year, by the death of doctor D. C. Danielssen, sustained a very severe loss, which cannot be easily replaced.

If the Bergen Museum is now an institution, of which any country might be proud, it is due in the first instance to Danielssen. If Bergen is at the present day something more than a flourishing business town, it may to a large extent thank Danielssen for it, who by his indefatigable energy, in the most various directions, during many years, has raised it to its present standing.

In the scientific records of this century, his name must be inscribed, as that of one of the most active and conspicuous amongst our countrymen.

Few men in our land have had his power and will to advance the intellectual life of the town, with which he was connected, during a long life of ceaseless activity.

Few men in our country have laboured in such an energetic and disinterested manner, as he has done, in the service of Science. Although his age announced to us, that his career must soon draw to a close, still when the end came, his loss left a blank, which cannot be easily filled up.

I.

Daniel Cornelius Danielssen, son of the watchmaker Danielssen, was born in Bergen on the 4th of July 1815. From a financial point of view, the home prospects were not very brilliant, and when Danielssen was thirteen years old he was obliged to apprentice himself to an apothecary, with a view to become a chemist. But after four years he was obliged to give up this plan, on account of inflammation of the hip, which confined him to his bed for a year and a half, leaving a permanent lameness. After he recovered

i 1838, blev han med bedste karakter *examinatus medicinae*, d. v. s. han tog en eksamen, der nok berettigede til at praktisere, men som dog var af en ringere art end den egentlige medicinske embedseksamen og med adskillig kortere studietid¹⁾.

I det følgende aar gjorde Danielssen forskjellig lægetjeneste, som konstitueret eskadronskirurg paa Gardermoen, amanuensis hos brigadelæge Hjort i Kristiania og konst. distriktslæge i Stavanger.

Høsten 1839 kom han saa tilbage til Bergen, hvor han begyndte at anstille videnskabelige iagttagelser over spedalskheden og hvor han blev sit hele efterfølgende liv, stadig beskjæftiget med undersøgelser over denne samme sygdom, men ogsaa stadig optaget med andre videnskabelige arbejder og med offentlige gjøremaal af den forskjelligste slags.

Et aar efter sin ankomst til Bergen (septbr. 1840) indtraadte Danielssen i embedsstilling, idet han blev udnævnt til korpsslæge ved Nordfjordske musketerkorps. Fra nyttaar 1841 blev han tillige ansat som læge ved St. Jørgens Hospital — dengang den eneste stiftelse for spedalske i Bergen — og omtrent samtidig blev der for et tidsrum af 2 aar stillet midler til hans disposition til foretagelse af undersøgelser over den spedalske sygdom. Disse midler bevilgedes og dette hverv betroedes Danielssen efter forslag af daværende overlæge, senere professor W. Boeck, sammen med hvem ogsaa resultaterne af de foretagne undersøgelser publiceredes.

I de følgende aar (1843—44) foretog Danielssen i videnskabeligt øiemed en længere udenlandsreise, under hvilken han bl. a. besøgte Berlin, Wien og Paris og deltog i et naturforskermøde i Gratz.

Efter sin hjemkomst til Norge fratraadte han sit embede som korpsslæge, idet han (nov. 46) blev udnævnt til overlæge ved den forsøgs- og helbredelsesanstalt for spedalske i Bergen („Lungegaardshospitalet“), som netop var besluttet oprettet. Han tilstodes samtidigt et reisestipendium for under ét aars ophold i udlandet at fortsætte sine studier over hudsygdomme og sætte sig ind i hospitalsvæsen. I begyndelsen af 1847 reiste han i den anledning til Paris, hvor han forblev til aarets udgang, alene med undtagelse af et par maaneder, i hvilke han besøgte hospitaler i Schweiz, Lombardiet og Sardinien. I Paris udkom under hans ledelse en fransk udgave af hans og Boecks værk over spedalskheden (se nedenfor), resultatet af de forløbne aars arbejde.

¹⁾ Ogsaa denne eksamen er senere ophævet.

from this illness, at twenty years of age, he passed the preliminary examination¹⁾, and began at once to study medicine. Three years later, in 1838, he became, with the highest marks, *examinatus medicinæ*, that is to say he passed an examination, which enabled him to practise, but which was of a lower grade than the special examination for the degree in medicine, and with a considerably shorter time of preparatory study²⁾. In the following year Danielssen discharged various medical duties, as deputy army surgeon, assistant of Brigade-surgeon Hjort in Kristiania, and acting district doctor at Stavanger.

In the autumn of 1839 he came back to Bergen, where he began to institute scientific enquiries about leprosy, and where he remained for the rest of his life, constantly employed about this disease, but also occupied with other scientific questions, and with public affairs of the most varied descriptions.

A year after his arrival in Bergen (September 1840) Danielssen received an official appointment, being commissioned corps surgeon to the Nordfjordske Musketeer Corps. From January 1841 he was appointed surgeon to St. George's Hospital, (at that time, the only institution for lepers in Bergen), and almost at the same time, means were, for the space of two years, placed at his disposal for undertaking investigations of the disease of leprosy. These means were granted and the commission was entrusted to Danielssen, at the suggestion of the then surgeon in charge, later Professor, W. Boeck, in conjunction with whom the results of these investigations were published.

In the following year (1843—1844) Danielssen in the interests of science undertook a foreign tour, during which he visited Vienna, Berlin and Paris and took part in a meeting of naturalists at Gratz.

After his return to Norway he resigned his position of surgeon to the Corps, and (Nov. 1846) was appointed head surgeon of the institution for the investigation and cure of leprosy in Bergen (Lungegaard's Hospital) which was about to be established. He was allowed at the same time travelling expenses for a year's

¹⁾ An examination which admitted him to the university but not to pass all its examinations. It differed from the usual examination in arts as among other things it required no knowledge of classics. It has now been abolished.

²⁾ This examination is now done away with.