# PASTORAL MEDICINE

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Pastoral medicine by Carl Capellmann

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CARL CAPELLMANN

# PASTORAL MEDICINE

Trieste

## PASTORAL MEDICINE,

BY

## DR. CARL CAPELLMANN,

PRACTISING PHYSICIAN AT AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

TRANSLATED,

WITH THE AUTHOR'S SANCTION,

BY

#### REV. WM. DASSEL,

PASTOR OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH, HONESDALE, PA.

#### NEW YORK AND CINCINNATI:

#### FR. PUSTET,

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#### PREFACE.

THE favorable notices of the work I have attempted to translate which have appeared in the German reviews, its intrinsic value, and its eminent practical usefulness, inspired me with the desire to open for it a wider sphere of asefulness, by clothing it in an English dress.

The author is Dr. Carl Capellmann, an eminent German physician practising in Alx-In-Chapelle. His treatise, "De occisions fostus," brought him a great reputation among theologians and physicians, and he was strongly urged to publish a book on "Pastoral Medicine." In deference to this request, this present work appeared in Easter, 1877. A second edition was called for, in August of the same year, and a third in the spring of this year.

The task of translation has been, for obvious reasons, a most unwelcome one. A large, and, perhaps, the most important, portion of Dr. Capellmann's work treats of subjects connected with the faithful observance or eriminal breach of the sixth commandment. The calamitous consequences of the latter to soul and body alike cannot be exaggerated. The moral and physical ills it brings in its train are so complicated with one another, that it is impossible to treat them apart ; and this compels both the moralist and the physician to enter into details of the most repulsive description. But neither the one nor the other should be deterred from his duty of treating subjects of so painfully unpleasant a nature, when it is a question of alleviating, still more of curing, the moral and physical miseries of his fellow-creatures. If the exigencies of our work force us, at the bidding of holy charity, to lay bare some of the hideous vices which degrade humanity, and afflict it with its most frightful sufferings, we shall receive the sympathy of all, save those conspirators against God and the diguity of the human being who have neither losthing for vice, nor sympathy for suffering,

It may be doubted whether or not it would be advisable to conceal the treatment of such subjects under the disguise of a dead language. On the whole, I subscribe to the opinion of the author, pages 69 and 70, who is in favor of the vernacular, following thereby the example of the Rev. J. C. Debreyne, a distinguished physiciau, who, in obscurity at La Trappe,

made a happy use of his vast stores of medical knowledge.\* A perfect familiarity with the dead languages is a less common accomplishment nowadays than formerly; and in a treatise of so essentially practical a nature, requiring the utmost precision of expression, and wherein the slightest misunderstanding might have the most serious results, there would appear to be almost a necessity for choosing the vernacular language as the vehicle of information.

As the work is addressed *exclusively* to priests and physicians, I have endeavored, with the anthor, to lessen the disgust necessarily provoked by unavoidable details, by putting them into a Latin disguise, when that could be done without any risk of misunderstanding.

Nevertheless, I reiterate, most earnestly and solemnly, that the work is intended wholly, exclusively, and entirely, for the professional use of whether priest or physician, and that it is altogether unfit for the perusal of the lay or general reader; as indeed must all works be, treating of similar subjects.

With regard to the translation itself, I have endeavored to make it a faithful rendering of the original. At first, indeed, I had contemplated making sundry alterations and additions, such, for example, as would naturally be suggested by a difference of country, custome, climate, etc., etc. But since the work is likely to find readers wherever the Euglish language is spoken, I thought it best to leave Dr. Capellmann's work unaltered, trusting to the good-sense and judgment of individual readers to make any indispensable modifications suggested by the conditions we have referred to.

If this work should prove of some practical service to my cherical brethren, and to Christian physicians who make a ministry of their art, the somewhat difficult, and sometimes disagreeable, task of its translation will not have been undertaken in vain.

WM. DASSEL.

HONESDALE, Pa., December, 1878.

<sup>\*</sup> Debreyne, P. J. C., "Assai sur la théologie morule, considérée dans ses rapports avec la physiologie et la médecine." V. édition. Paris, librairie Poussieigue frères, rue Casselle 27, 1868.



In whatever is written in this work, it has been my intention to be in complete accord with the doctrines of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Should anything have been inadvertently advanced ever so little at variance with them, I recall and disavow it, by anticipation, unconditionally.

#### THE AUTHOR.

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# THE ABBEAU NEW

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