

Tekijuku's crucial role in the transmission of European medicine. Harmen Beukers

When Ogata Kōan became student of Naka Ten'yu in 1826, medicine in Europa had changed its character. At the end of the eighteenth century it had a strong theoretical character and in therapy it prescribed complex mixtures of pharmaceutical substances. As a reaction in the early nineteenth century, European physicians tried to avoid the rational approach of diseases and remained close to clinical observations and accurate description of individual disease cases. As far as theory was involved, the concept of a vital force was accepted. Therapy profited from the developments in chemistry, enabling the isolation of pure pharmaceutical substances. The tendency was to prescribe simple drugs.

Most prominent in this period was the practice-oriented physician C.W.F. Hufeland, author of a *System of Practical Medicine* (1818-1828) and promotor of Jenner's method of vaccination. His *Enchiridion Medicum* (1838) was a best-seller.

With teachers like Tsuboi Shindō and Udagawa Genshin, Ogata Kōan became acquainted with contemporary European medicine, as is evident from his library. Tsuboi also suggested Ogata the long-term project of translating Hufeland's main works. Ogata's Tekijuku was strongly influenced by this practice oriented European medicine. Tekijuku's teaching program gave much emphasis on linguistics and there were not many classes on medicine. Nevertheless students could acquire thorough knowledge of contemporary European medicine while translating texts for the regular reading competitions (*kaidoku*). That the method was successful is demonstrated by the fact that two students, Magayo Sensai and Ogata's son Koreyoshi, could easily join the medical course by Pompe van Meerdervoort in Nagasaki. Actually they became leaders in the modernization of Japanese medicine, public health and medical education. Thus showing the crucial role of Tekijuku as educational institution in the transmission of European medicine.