Historiae Morborum – The Medical Records of Franz von Ottenthal (1818—1899)

An Interreg III A Project (2002–2007)

Database Manual

Introduction

This manual introduces you to the navigation of the "Historiae Morborum" online query portal. It comprises important information about the various search fields and provides guidelines, according to which Franz von Ottenthal's handwritten surgery journals were adapted by the project team. Please read the information carefully.

The "Historiae Morborum" project team would like to wish you good luck with your research!

Signs and Symbols

✐ in the original source
🖥 in the database
✍ explanation

Contents

1. Original Source

1.1. Range and Content

- Period: 55 years (1844–1899)

- 244 surgery journals

- private reference books, literature not intended for public use

- The first 14 surgery journals date from Ottenthal's time as a medical expert in Matrei in East Tyrol (1844-1846), the other 230 surgery journals originate from his time as a general practitioner in Sand in Taufers.

- The database only comprises the notes and medications of Ottenthal's surgery in Sand in Taufers (1847–1899). His early years in Matrei i.O. were not adapted.

- The journals are now held in trust of the South Tyrolean State Archive (Signature: SLA, Nachlass Franz v. Ottenthal, Historiae Morborum 1844–1899).

- Surgery journals between 20 and 100 pages thick, quarto

- Each surgery journal consists of a cover on which the volume number, the included sequence numbers and an epigram are noted; mostly it includes an index, sometimes patient letters, medical opinions, bills etc. are enclosed.

- Basic principle of the consecutive, only once (a year) assigned number.

- A chart-like structure – pencil lines drawn on each of the pages – underlies the individual medical records. We managed to reconstruct an arrangement system comprising of six fields (→ Fig. 1).

This system used by Ottenthal allows a quantifying analysis according to selected categories. The various surgery journals include the following information:

- Name
- Age
- Sex
- Patient's residence and address
- Date of consultation/house call
- Protocol of the doctor–patient–talk with notes on the observations either made by the patients themselves or the doctor.
- Therapy and doctor's fee, further proceeds of the sale of medicine fom his own medical supplies.
- Reference to family members/household– and farm community
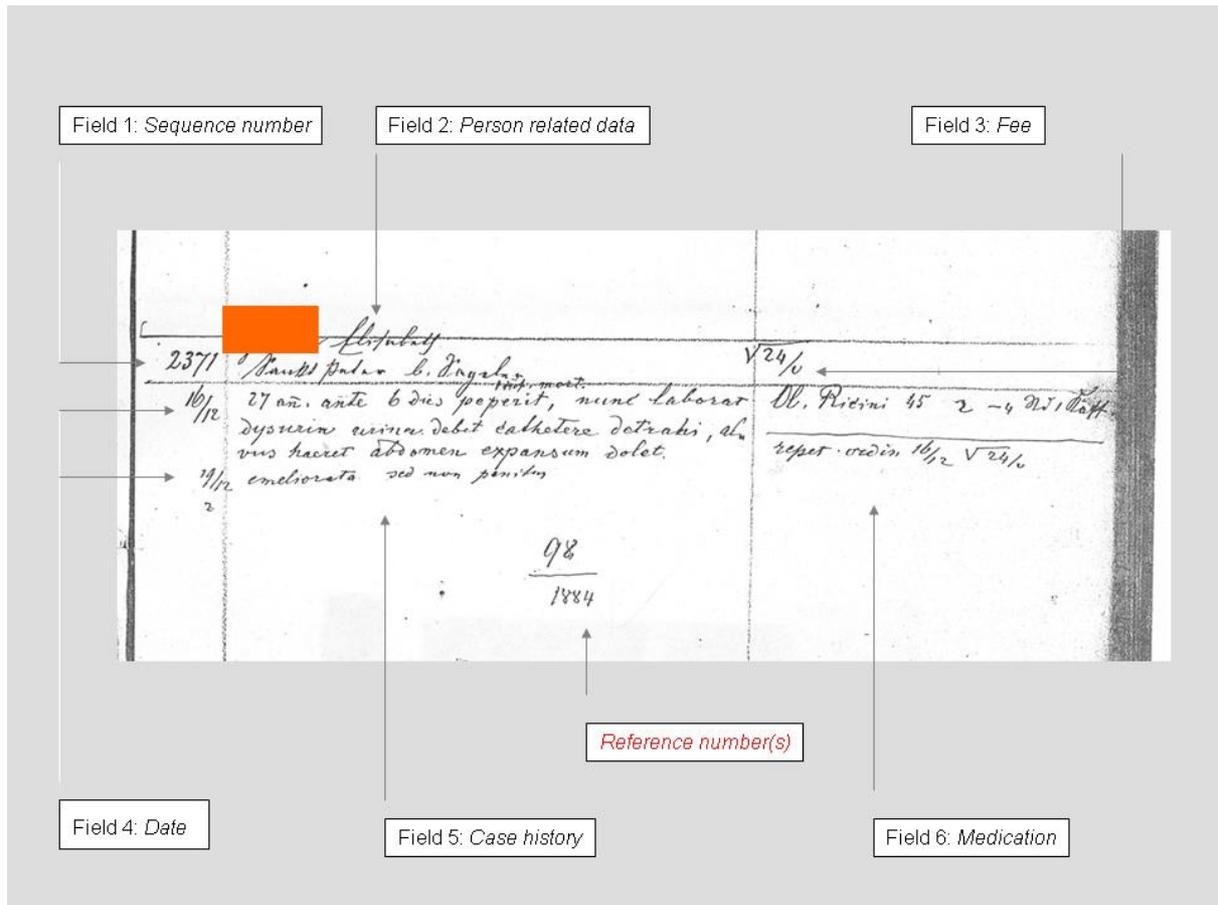
Figure 1: Medical record from "Historiae Morborum"

A detailed description of these fields, further information on the original source and about Franz von Ottenthal's biography can be found on the project homepage.

1.2.   Index and ID

Ottenthal enclosed an index of names, in the form of loose pages, to each of the surgery journals– probably in order to make a quicker orientation possible. The index includes the patients' surnames in alphabetical order, first name and residence, plus the assigned sequence number(s). Unfortunately, some indexes are missing from the collection.
In some cases though, specific information from the index does not coincide with the information from the medical records, or provide additional information (e.g. on the address). You find such divergences in the comment field on the person.

The indexes were entered into the database. In the course of data input, each patient received an electronically generated ID-number.

1.3. Source Sufficiency

The "Historiae–Morborum"–project only dealt with the data input of those volumes concerning the Tauferer Ahrntal. The journals dating from Ottenthal's time as a medical expert in Matrei in East Tyrol (1844 I, II, III, IV, 1845 V, VI, VIII, IX, X, XI, 1846 I, II, III) were not entered into the database.

Therefore, the query portal provides information on Ottenthal's practice between 1847 and 1899.

Most surgery journals from this period have survived, only the following are missing

- 1847 I, III, V
- 1849 I, II, IV, VII
- 1885 III

In addition, the database shows blanks, "lost" and double sequence numbers, if

- Ottenthal had counted wrongly
- individual pages were in too bad a state of preservation
- individual pages were missing
- Ottenthal had assigned a number twice

For statistic analyses you should observe that:

- A medical record can show cross-references to previous or/and future consultations, concerning a period documented in a missing book. Although it was possible to assign the individual sequence number to a person, the actual medical record is lost. The sequence number's comment field therefore shows the note
  Krankengeschichte fehlt im Original.
  [meaning: medical record is missing in the original]

- In the first journals of Ottenthal's surgery in Sand back-references to the year 1846 can appear. In those cases the specific sequence numbers were also entered, though the associated notations/medications are missing.

- The database does not show the original division into separate journals.

2. Notes on the Source Transmission into the Database

2.1. Transcription Guidelines

a) Only the surname, notations and associated medications were taken from the original source literally and true to the punctuation.

b) Parentheses are also round in the original source, meaning they were retained in the online-version.

c) Year dates in parentheses refer to the dating of a name variant:
   Mair (1847)
   Maier (1850)

d) Square brackets denote illegible or damaged parts in the original, which could not be deciphered reliably. The brackets either remain blank *[…]*, are filled with the most probable complement or are labelled with a question mark *[?]*. Sometimes they contain information about the original passage (e.g. words in Greek letters) and comments by the input staff, as e.g. *[siehe Anna Musterfrau, ID 10–00–00, gleiche Laufnummer]*.

e) Crossed out passages in the original source were not transferred. Whereas parenthesised passages in the original were entered, because the meaning of those parentheses (subsequent correction, ineffective medicine, or the like) could not directly be grasped from the original source.

f) Ottenthal's misspellings were transcribed and marked with *[sic]*.

g) Sometimes little hand drawings and calligraphic entries can be found in the source. If they bear no direct relation to patient data, they were not entered into the database.

h) If a database-field in the original source provides no information (marked by Ottenthal with a question mark), you will find the comment *k. A.* (no information) in the specific search field. In the case of a first-name-field, it remains blank.

2.2.   The Individual Search Fields
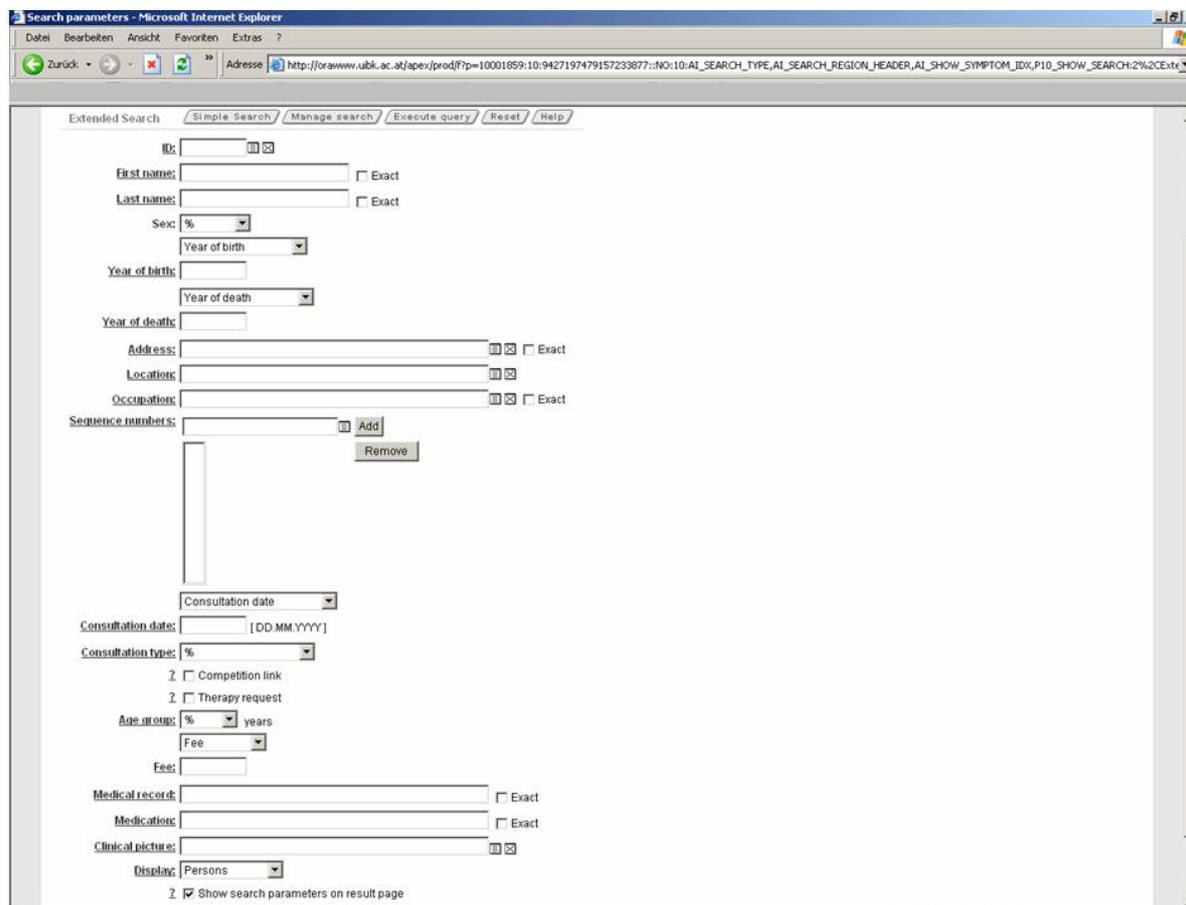
Figure 2: Screenshot. Query portal validated user, extended search

Part I: Patient Related Fields

2.2.1. First Name

For a better researchability, first names were unified or normalised.

a) Ottenthal sometimes writes first names in different variations, such as : *Josef* and *Joseph*, *Friedrich* and *Fritz*, etc. Abbreviated first names and nicknames (*Joh.* for *Johann*, *Bartl* for *Bartholomäus*) were transferred according to the custom of the time, but were **not** adapted to the presently common name (*Nothburga* remained *Nothburga*); furthermore Ottenthal used diminuative forms (*Rosina*). For further details proceed to the comment field "Person".

b) In the course of their medical biography, it is possible that some people suddenly appear in the journals with different first names. A synonymous usage of the names *Wallburga* and *Nothburga* seems to have been quite common. In such cases the first name used in the journals was taken as a standard first name. The comment field "Person" provides information on such deviations (→ 3.1.).

c) If Ottenthal did not provide a first name, the field remained blank.

d) If Ottenthal noted down a question mark instead of a name, this was not transferred to the database. Because of the missing information, the field remained blank instead.

e) Information on special cases concerning the assignment of names can be found in the comment field "Person".

> ⌨ *Vorname im Original 1847: "Tominik"*
> [First name in original 1847: "Tominik"]
> ✎ Due to improved researchability this first name appears in the database in the normalised form Dominik, although the patient was recorded as Tominik at his first consulting hour in 1847.

In order to receive all patient data available, you as a user have to keep those name variants in mind.

2.2.2. Surname

Information on the surnames was **not** unified or normalised. In cases of differing spellings, they were recorded as variants.

In the surname field you will further find

- Information concerning civil status, e.g.
  filius, *verehl.*, *Wwe.*

- Information on the position within the family, concerning different age groups, e. g.
  jun., *sen., junior, senior*

- Address, title, address of rank, which allow a social location of a person e. g.
  Herr (von), Frau (von), Fräulein (von), Doktor, *Hochwürden*

Information on special cases can be found in the comment field "Person".

2.2.3. Sex

In most cases the assigned sex was evident from the patient's first name. Only in a disappearingly small percentage of the doctor's clientele could no assignment be made.
In those cases you will find the note
  unbekannt.
  [unknown]

On the gender proportion in Ottenthal's surgery vide:

- Oberhofer Andreas, Eine Landarztpraxis im 19. Jahrhundert am Beispiel der Ordination des Dr. Franz von Ottenthal (1818–1899), in: Dietrich–Daum Elisabeth/Dinges, Martin/Jütte, Robert/Roilo, Christine (Hg.), Arztpraxen im Vergleich: 18.–20. Jahrhundert, Wien/Innsbruck/Bozen 2008, S. 167–191.

- Vide homepage: Figure 1.

2.2.4. Year of Birth

The original source displays the age told to the doctor by the patients. The birth year shown in the database is not taken from the source, but was reconstructed according to the age references given in the medical record. Therefore it can vary from birth dates found in reference sources (e.g. church registers).

During data input only the first given age statement in the journals was used for the reconstruction of the patients' individual birth year.

2.2.5. Year of Death

The exact time of death (day, time of day) was only recorded for a very small part of Ottenthal's patients.

2.2.6. Address

Location

The place names used by Ottenthal were normalised according to the following, contemporary compendium:

> Orts–Repertorium der gefürsteten Grafschaft Tirol und Vorarlberg. Auf Grundlage der Volkszählung vom 31. December 1869 bearbeitet von der k. k. statistischen Central–Commission in Wien, Innsbruck 1873.

During Ottenthal's time as a general practitioner, the allocation of some hamlets to political communities may have changed. Individual shifts of borders could not be taken into consideration within this project.

Ottenthal noted down the patient's address/farm, but not the corresponding municipality. As far as the project team was able to allocate the address/farm to a municipality according to the above mentioned catalogue of place names, they were entered into the database to enable improved statistic analysis.

Further information on place names can be found in the comment field "Person".

    ⌨   *Ort "St. Johann" 1856 laut Register*
           [place "St. Johann" 1856 according to register]
    ↳   The address field was left blank in the original source; the fact that the patient was resident in the municipality of St. Johann was reconstructed from a journal entry in 1856.

Address

Individual farms and hamlets were allocated according to the above mentioned catalogue of place names.

If simply an address without a municipality was mentioned in the original source, the corresponding municipality was added into the database in order to allow improved statistic analysis.

The addresses were normalised for an improved researchability:

-    Abbreviated address parts were written out.
      Example: ✐ *A. Hofer* →   ⌨ *Außerhofer*
                        ✐ *O. Hofer* →   ⌨ *Oberhofer*
                        ✐ *b.*   →   ⌨ *bei*

-    Abbreviations, referring to former or contemporary property situations were turned into:
      Example: ✐ *½ Hofer* →   ⌨ *Halbhofer*
                        ✐ *¼ Stucker* →   ⌨ *Viertelstucker*

2.2.7. Profession

The professional details used by Ottenthal were taken from the original source literally.

They were left in their original language (German, Latin), because every translation is an interpretation.

The professional details shown in this field, either originate directly from the name field (Example: *Böthin, Coop., Knappe, Frechtherin*), or were taken from the medical records (Example: *miles emeritus, in fodinis metallicis*).

Further information on the professional details can be found in the comment field "Person".

2.2.8. Sequence Number

The sequence number consists of two separate parts.

> 🖉🖥 sequence number *134/1856*
> ✍   The person with the sequence number 134/1856 was the 134th patient in the year 1856.

The database does not show the original division into separate books.

2.2.9. Reference Numbers

Due to Franz von Ottenthal's habit of assigning reference numbers (→ Fig. 1) over a period of several years, we can

a) trace a "patient's career" over several years and sometimes even
b) reconstruct family relations or household communities. In such cases you will find the symbol 🔱 in the output field "master data", which automatically opens a new window with related information.

Occupations	Notes	Sequence numbers	🔱
netrix (1873)		1046/1873, 1121/1873	
		1182/1860, 98/1870, 642/1870, 1259/1873	🔱
		1434/1873	
		178/1874	

Figure 3: Screenshot. Query portal validated user, extended search

The sequence number field not only provides the reference numbers assigned by Ottenthal himself, but also information on the reconstructed "patient history", assembled by the project team. In such cases the following is displayed in the comment field.

> 🖥   *Die Laufnummern wurden vom Projektteam zusammengeführt.*
> [meaning: sequence numbers assembled by project team]

Please note, that within the limited project time, the team was only able to reconstruct a small portion of complete patient histories.

2.2.10.   Type of Consultation

The notation can either be a consultation hour (*Consultation Hour*), a home call (*Home Call*), or a consultation hour with errand service (*Consulatation Hour with Errand Service*). Though, the exact type of consultation can only be indirectly inferred from corresponding information in the notation.

2.2.11.   Competition Reference

Activate the symbol "☑", if you are searching for information on other medical professions:

> doctor (*collega*)
> surgeon (*chirurgus*)
> midwife (*obstetrix*)
> itinerant tradesperson (*agyrta*)

The following were not referred to:

> Hospital stay (*nosocomium*)
> Spa stay (*Prags* etc.)

2.2.12.   Therapy Request

Activate the symbol "☑", if you are searching for a medicine or special therapy form, explicitly asked for by the patient:

> Example: 🖥   *laxans desiderat*
> *hirudines desiderat*
> *laxationem vult*

2.2.13.   Age Group

The age groups were not assigned according to Ottenthal's system, but were entered into the database according to criteria elaborated from common standard categories by the project team.

You will find the following categories:

> *0–365 day(s)*
> *1–4 years*
> *5–14 years*
> *15–18 years*
> *19–65 years*
> *> 65 years*

2.2.14.   Fee

Ottenthal recorded information on his fees only very inconsistently and unclearly.

Only clear information from the original source were assigned to the individual notations by the project team. Unclear information was not entered into the fee field and marked as doubtful. In cases of unclear information, the symbol "☑" is activated.

Therefore, representative calculations on the doctor's fees are not possible! Statistic analyses on the overall fee must be conducted on the basis of the original source!

In addition to the amount of the doctor's fee in Gulden (guilder) and Kreuzer, the search field "fee" also includes information on, e.g.:

✎🖥   *14 ½ zahlt Armenfond v. Mühlwald*
✍   The poor fund of Mühlwald was charged 14 ½ Kreuzer.

This additional information is taken from the original source literally and either entered directly into the "fee" field, or the comment field "notation".

Quite frequently Ottenthal uses the indication *nil*, meaning that he did not charge a fee in those cases. The information was taken from the original source literally.

Types of currency 1847–1899:

During Ottenthal's time as a general practitioner two monetary reforms occurred:

At the beginning of his practice in Sand 1847 till 1857:
Austro-Bavarian Gulden (guilder) convention coin *C[onventions] M[ünze]"*

As from September 19, 1857:
Gulden (guilder) Austrian currency *ö[sterreichischer] W[ährung]."* (1 Gulden = 100 Kreuzer)
Transitional period till November 1, 1858.

As from August 2, 1892:
Kronen (crown) currency (1 Gulden ö. W. = 2 Kronen; 1 Krone = 100 Heller)
Bank notes "Austrian currency" valid till 1900, then the Krone (crown) was the sole legal tender.

Ottenthal did not transpose the 1892 reform. He adhered to the calculation of his fee in Gulden (guilder) and Kreuzer.

For further information vide:

http://www.oenb.at/de/ueber_die_oenb/geldmuseum/oesterr_geldgeschichte/gulden/gulden_und_kronen.jsp

Knoflach, Georg, Vom Gulden zur Krone – vom Schilling zum Euro. Rechtliche, wirtschaftliche und historische Betrachtungen über Währungsumstellungen, unveröff. Diss., Innsbruck 2001.

Part II: Medical Record Fields

2.2.15.   Medical Record

The medical records recorded by Ottenthal consist of individual notations; each assigned a date and medication (→ 1.1.).

2.2.16.   Medication

The medication refers to the related notations. It documents the prescribed medicine, the dosage as well as other therapeutic measures and proposals.

a)   Parenthesised medication or parts of medications in the original source were transferred literally into the database.

b)   Crossed out medication or parts of medications in the original source were not transferred.

c)   Pharmaceutic symbols or apothecary's weights used by Ottenthal especially in his early years, were turned into the following:

> ✎ *lb. =* 🖥 *lb. = Libra = Pfund = 12 Unzen*
> 🖥 *unc. = uncia = Unze = 8 Drachmen* (→ Figure 4)
> 🖥 *drachm. = drachma = Drachme = 3 Skrupel* (→ Figure 4)
> ✎ * э =* 🖥 *scrup. = scrupulus = Skrupel = 20 Gran.*
> ✎ *gr. =* 🖥 *gr. = granum*

The apothecary's weights were converted due to the following key:
1 Skrupel = 20 Gran
1 Drachme = 60 Gran
1 Unze = 480 Gran
1 Pfund = 5.260 Gran.

Ottenthal also used the following abbreviation signs and symbols:
✎ *β =* 🖥 *sem. = semis* (halb)
✎ *M =* 🖥 *M = Maß* or *Mensura*

✎ *q. s. =* 🖥 *q. s. = quantum satis*, meaning the doctor leaves the quantity calculation to the pharmacist.

✎🖥 *#* = seperator signs used in the prescription of more than one medicine. This sign was transcribed literally (→ Fig. 4).

✎ *Z, [Z], I, [I]* = sign not definitely clarified. This indication most likely turns up with the medication *pot[ionis] lax[antis] fort[is] dos[is] Z* and was transcribed as 🖥 *"Z"*. Though there are various gradations between a one in Roman numerals *"I"* and the above mentioned *"Z"*. This fact was marked by square brackets: 🖥 *"[I]"* und *"[Z]"*.
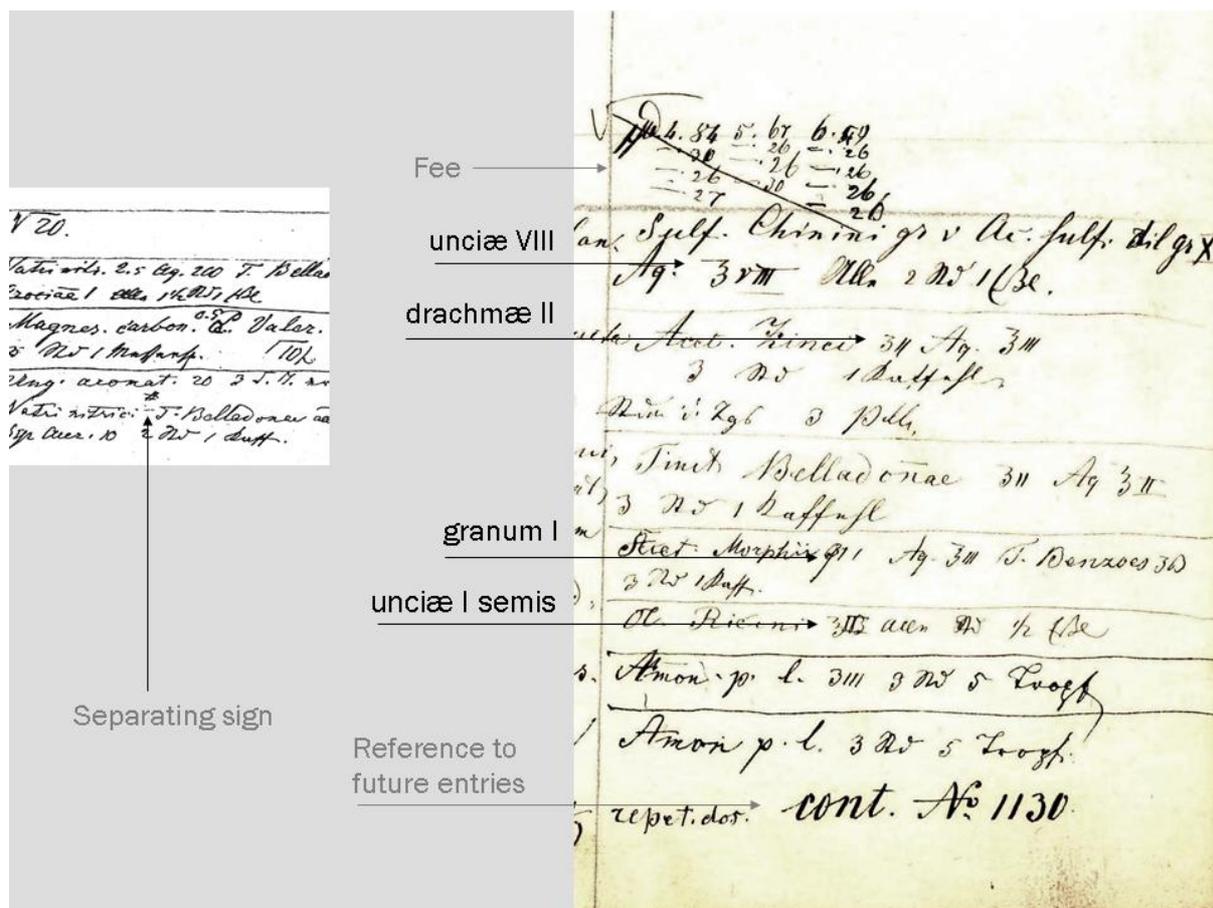
Figure 4: Otthenthal's use of symbols for the apothecary's weights. Picture source: SLA, Nachlass Ottenthal, "Historiae Morborum".

2.2.17.   Clinical Picture

You will find descriptions of symptoms, signs for illnesses and conditions in the list of "clinical pictures". The term "clinical picture" explicitly refers to the historic change of medical explanation attempts.

If you click on the symbol ▤, a window with a list of about 60.000 "clinical pictures" opens. This list can be used as a dictionary, where you can browse and search for a relevant "sign" (→ Fig. 5).

e.g.   E–   →   EM–   →   EMACIATIO MAGNA

            U–   →   UL–   →   ULCERATIO IN HEPATE

The list should help the researcher to narrow down the choices in the noted afflictions, diagnoses, descriptions of pain, etc.

The list can be seen as a research support device, because the individual medical records and therefore all further information stay available in a literal transcription.
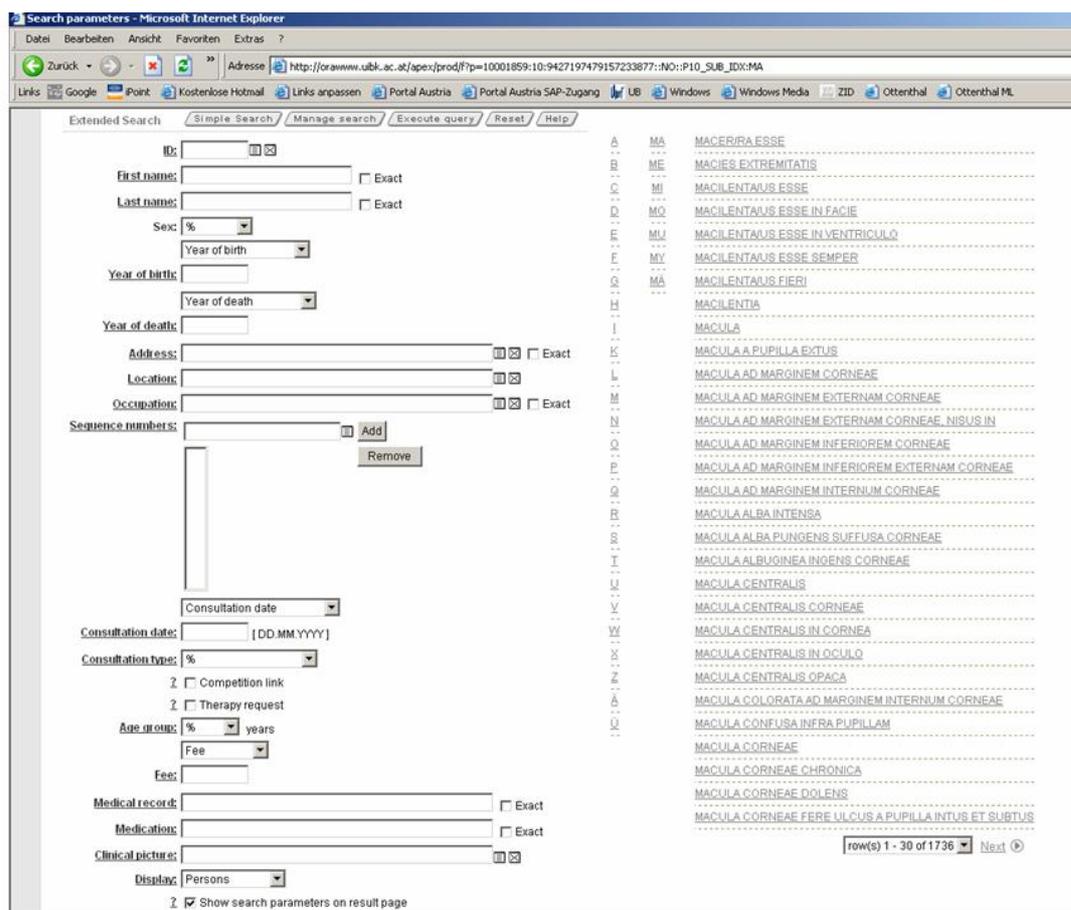
Figure 5: Screenshot. Query portal "clinical pictures" validated user, extended search.

Standardisations in the "clinical picture" list

The following standardisations were made in order to guarantee better operability and clarity:

a) The "clinical pictures" were incorporated in the nominative. Without a standardisation the problem of different grammatical variants would arise.
Example: ✎ *laborat vertigine* or *accusat vertiginem* → 💻 *vertigo*

b) The "clinical pictures" were unified during data input and incorporated in the nominative or the required case in the singular, as far as no semantic need arose to leave the "sign"unchanged in the plural:
✎ *dolores varii in intestino* → 💻 *dolores varii in intestino*
but not: *dolor varius in intestino*

c) The tenses were also unified to the infinitive or the present/past participle:
✎   *caput dolet*   → 💻 *caput dolens*
✎   *dolet in hypochondrio*   → 💻 *dolere in hypochondrio*
✎   *tussis parum solvitur*   → 💻 *tussis parum soluta*

d) The "clinical pictures" were incorporated in classic Latin or in their original German/dialectal spelling:
- ✎ *appetitus/adpetitus* → 🖥 *adpetitus*
- ✎ *Pizeln auf der Zunge* → 🖥 *Pizeln auf der Zunge*

e) Obvious misspellings made by Ottenthal were marked with [sic], but were not corrected.

f) Compound "signs" (e. g. comprising of a body part and a pain description) were multiply incorporated:

- ✎ *dolor acerbus abdominis* → 🖥 *dolor acerbus abdominis*
- → *abdomen, dolor acerbus*

Examples

Example 1: Sequence number 131/1867

✎ *9 annorum ex 2 diebus cephalea et doloribus vagis adfectus est prius in humero nunc in latere sinistro jam ante 8 dies per triduum febricitavit imprimis de nocte multum ejulat adpet. nunc bonus*

Signs noted by Ottenthal ✎	were transferred as 🖥
cephalea	*cephalea*
doloribus vagis in humero	*dolor vagus in humero*
	humerus, dolor vagus in
doloribus vagis in latere sinistro	*dolor vagus in latere sinistro*
	latus sinistrum, dolor vagus in
febricitavit	*febricitare*
multum ejulat	*eiulare multum*

Example 2: Sequence number 1831/1886

✎ *56 ann. ex 5 mensibus laborat dolore ischiadico qui irradiatur in genu et ad malleol. extern. etiam in abdomen dol. irradiantur*

Signs noted by Ottenthal ✎	were transferred as 🖥
dolore ischiadico qui irradiatur in genu	*dolor ischiadicus in genu irradiatus*
	genu, dolor ischiadicus irradiatus in
dolore ischiadico qui irradiatur ad malleol. extern.	*dolor ischiadicus ad malleoloum externum irradiatus*
	malleolus externus, dolor ischiadicus irradiatus ad
in abdomen dol. irradiantur	*dolor in abdomen irradiatus*
	abdomen, dolor irradiatus in

3. Notes on the Comment Fields

3.1. Notes on the Person

The comment field includes

a) Additional information, taken from the source or the index, which could not be incorporated in a normalised input field:

Example: ⌨   *Zusatz Adressfeld 1851: "von St. Jakob in Ahrn"*
             ✎   The patient originally comes from St. Jakob in Ahrn, but lived in a different place at the time of consultation. To allow valid statistic analysis on origin, such information was incorporated in the comment field on "Person".

b) References to persons, who were under medical treatment, accompanied by siblings, relatives or other members of the farm community. Were those people named, an extra case sheet was created. If they stayed anonymous (*cum viro, et soror*, etc.), no extra case sheet could be created.

c) Deviations from the normalised forms, for example in first names:

Example: ⌨   *Patientin 1733/1877, 667/1878, 838/1879 als "Nothburga" aufgenommen.*
             ✎   The patient was called *Wallburga* at her first consultation, though she was recorded with the synonym *Nothburga* in the follow up notations (→ 2.2.1.b).

d) Links to reference sources, which provide further information on a person.

Example: ⌨   *Mannschaftsbuch für das Personal der Ahrner Gewerkschaft Jahr 1867, Steinhauser Archiv Nr. 173.43*

3.2. Notes on the Sequence Numbers

You will find only standardised and self-explanatory entries.

Example: ⌨   *Referenznummer (1846) verweist auf Ordination in Matrei i.O. Krankengeschichte fehlt im Original.*
             [meaning: reference number (1846) refers to a consultation in Matrei in East Tyrol. Medical record is missing in the original.]

             ⌨   *Die Laufnummer wird ebenso für (den) die Patienten mit der ID 11–30–82 verwendet.*
             [meaning: sequence number is also being used for the patient(s) with ID 11-30-82.]

3.3.   Notes on the Medical Record

You will find

a) only standardised and self-explanatory entries, referring to a fragmentary or ambiguous source.
   Example: 💻   *Datum angenommen*
   [meaning: supposed date]
   Abkürzungszeichen im Original
   [meaning: Abbreviation sign in the original]
   Fehlstellen im Original
   [meaning: blank in the original]
   Honorar nicht eindeutig zuordenbar
   [meaning: fee not clearly assigned]
   Medikationszuweisung unklar
   [meaning: distribution of medication unclear]
   Tintenfleck im Original
   [meaning: inkstain in the original]
   Unterschiedliche Altersangabe innerhalb eines Jahres
   [meaning: differing age statements within one year]

b) additional information, that could not be assigned to an input field in the database's input mask .
   Example: 💻   *Diagnose: Cephalea chronica*

c) complementary indications on the doctor's fee, that go beyond the charged amount.
   Example: 💻   *Zusatz: "29/3 64 6 Xr gezahlt warum?"*
                  ↳   On March 29, 1864 Ottenthal was paid 6 Kreuzer by a patient, but did not remember what the fee was for.

4.   Links

Project homepage: http://www.uibk.ac.at/ottenthal/index.html
South Tyrolean state archive (Südtiroler Landearchiv, SLA):
http://www.provinz.bz.it/denkmalpflege/1303/index_d.asp
University of Innsbruck: http://www.uibk.ac.at/index.html

Original Source: South Tyrolean state archive (SLA) Bolzano, Nachlass Ottenthal, „Historiae Morborum".