### DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GESCHICHTE DER NERVENHEILKUNDE e.V.



#### Band 16 der Schriftenreihe der DGGN - Abstracts

#### I. History of Psychiatry and Neurosciences in Halle

# Philipp Gutmann, Ekkehardt Kumbier: Remarks on the History of Psychiatry and Neurology in Halle – A Survey

Summary: The roots of psychiatry and neurology in Halle go back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was in Halle, where "the German Pinel" Johann Christian Reil, probably the most important ancestor of today`s psychiatry in Halle, was a physician and medical scientist, who amongst other things coined the term "Psychiaterie". In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the first psychiatric hospital was established in Halle-Nietleben, directed at first by Heinrich Damerow and later by Johannes Moritz Koeppe. However, it was Eduard Hitzig, who opened the "Psychiatrische und Nervenklinik" of the University of Halle in 1891. Successors of Hitzig at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were scientist as famous as Theodor Ziehen and Carl Wernicke, but only for a short period of time. Then Gabriel Anton held the position of chair for more than 20 years (1905-1926), followed by Alfred Hauptmann, who was discharged in 1935 by the National Socialists because of his Jewish heritage. After the position of chair was held by several physicians and besides Karl Leonhard, Helmut Rennert was the most important psychiatrist in the GDR who was professor in Halle from 1958 to 1984). He was followed by Helmut Späte and at last (1992) by Andreas Marneros, who holds the chair to date.

Keywords: Historical review, Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery, University Psychiatric and Neurological Clinic in Halle

### Jürgen Helm: Georg Ernst Stahl (1659–1734) – Founder of Psychosomatics?

Summary: This paper analyses Georg Ernst Stahl's medical theory and its critical reception by 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century authors. While explicitly referring to Stahl, all these authors nonetheless had varying ideas on the meaning of the concept of "soul", which did not accord with Stahl's concept of the living organism. Declaring Stahl as one of the founders of psychosomatics also implies a reduction and a distortion of his medical theory, which did not focus on the interaction between body and soul, but on the difference between the living and the dead.

Keywords: Georg Ernst Stahl, enlightenment, pietism, body and soul, psychiatry

## Axel Karenberg: Mission Impossible: The Unsuccessful Initiative for a Psychiatric Department in Halle (1816)

Summary: In 1816 the dean and other representatives of Halle Medical Faculty asked the Prussian government to establish a psychiatric department at Friedrichs University. This initiative reflects a century-long experience with bedside teaching at several institutions in Halle as well as the contemporary idea to train medical students in psychiatry including hands-on experience. Although the mission of 1816proved unsuccessful, as an unknown document from the Secrete State Archives confirms, it nonetheless emphasises the pioneering initiative by Halle's physicians and their role in establishing psychiatry as a discipline of its own right at German medical faculties.

*Keywords:* Hospitals, Psychiatric/History; Education, Medical/History; Hospitals, Teaching/History; Germany; History, 19<sup>th</sup> century

# Gert-Eberhard Kühne: Helmut Rennert – Universal Genesis of Psychoses and Characteristics of Pictoral Expression of Schizophrenics. A Retrospective in Honour of His 90th Birthday

*Summary:* On his 90th birthday the scientific heritage of Professor Helmut Rennert is recognised with regard to his work in the field of clinical neuropsychiatry, as a university professor and as the director of the University Psychiatric Hospital in Halle. His thesis of a "universal genesis of psychoses" and its derived

integrative therapeutic approach are of great importance to the field of psychiatric nosology. Furthermore, Rennert focused on the field of the pictoral expression of schizophrenics. His thesis of the "vertical shift of perspective" was introduced into scientific literature dealing with the psychopathology of expression. Rennert was considered to be one of the most important representatives of German psychiatry and helped to elevate the standing and recognition of German psychiatry beyond the borders of the former GDR.

Keywords: Psychiatric nosology, unitary psychosis, universal genesis of psychosis, pictoral expression of schizophrenics, psychopathology of expression

II. History of Psychiatry, Psychopathology and Psychotherapy

### Irmtraut Sahmland: All Diseases are those of the Soul – Johann Conrad Dippels' (1673-1734) Theory of Illness

Summary: Dippel, who was born near Darmstadt, first studied theology in Gießen and then medicine where he went on to attain a doctorate of medicine in Leyden in 1711. He converted to pietism and since he was very interested in natural philosophy he became an alchemist. Amongst his many publications there are specifically two voluminous works which are concerned with illness and medical therapy. His idea is that the body itself cannot fall ill since the organism is unable to suffer or feel pain as it is merely indifferent material. Only the "natural / animal soul" (natürliche / tierische Seele) becomes sick and is thus no longer able to control all the physiological functions. Hence, medical treatment aims at supporting the soul. This is true for all diseases to where in principle there is no difference between physical and mental diseases. A physician needs to be adept in medicine which has to be based on alchemy to be effectively useful. In order to successfully cure a patient, he or she needs to be actively involved. There are several parallels between Dippel's medical theory and that of Georg Ernst Stahl. Both focussed on the anima as the main potency to keep the organism alive. Still, Dippel's medical system was part of his fierce attack against all materialistic tendencies at his time. Therefore, he uncompromisingly refused any iatromechanic explanation, which was the decisive difference.

Keywords: Johann Conrad Dippel, Georg Ernst Stahl, Pietism, Alchemy, mental Diseases

# Norbert Andersch: 80 Years Ago: "On The Pathology of Symbolic Consciousness": Ernst Cassirer's Unredeemed Contribution to a Radical Reform of Psychopathology

Summary: In 1929 the philosopher Ernst Cassirer published a remarkable study on the theory of psychopathology. It was based on his work about symbol (and 'Gestalt') theory but it took its strongest emphasis from an intense clinical and theoretical interdisciplinary cooperation with neurologists, psychiatrists and psychologists. His publication however never gained a lasting impact within the psychopathological debate as he was forced into exile in 1933 and died early (1945), disconnected from his scientific network. His close link to clinical experience is shown in his correspondence with psychiatrist Ludwig Binswanger. Cassirer emphasizes the permanent change of symbolically created 'frames of reference' and their impact on the make-up of consciousness and on mental dysfunction. Yet his idea about the spectacular unfolding of human possibilities is based on a limited system of transcultural 'symbolic forms' and the even more basic pattern they are made of. A concept based on Cassirer's approach has been taken up by the London-based research group called 'New Psychopathology.' A 'Matrix of Mental Formation' is presented which allows to link the endless variety of clinical symptoms to basic invariants of relational patterns. With this approach mental health can also be newly defined..

Keywords: Ernst Cassirer, Psychopathology, Invariants of experience, Binswanger, 'Matrix of Mental Formation'.

### Ulrich W. Preuss, Anna-Bettina Watzke: Durkheim's "Le suicide" in View of Current Concepts of Suicide

Summary: "Le suicide", published in 1897, is a frequently cited and trend-setting publication of sociology and empirical social sciences. Based on various statistics from central European countries, Durkheim subgrouped suicidal behaviour into four major forms: the egoistic, altruistic, fatalistic and anomic suicide. These permit various insights into the conditions in society which determined the respective form of suicide. According to Durkheim, the social structure is the key to understanding the chain of events leading to suicide. In comparison, current concepts propose a bio-psycho-social model of suicidal behaviour which mainly highlights individual characteristics increasing the risk for suicide. A close relationship between psychopathology and suicidal behaviour was not demonstrated by Durkheim due to the limited availability and

quality of empirical data. This led to his undermining the significance of psychopathology in the genesis of suicide. Nevertheless, his publication extended beyond its primary historical importance through his successful documentation which detected plausible relationships between social structures and suicidal behaviour. Even current concepts of suicidal behaviour are incomplete if the societal context of the affected subject is not taken into consideration.

Keywords: Durkheim, "le suicide", suicidal behavior, bio-psycho-social model, review

# Helmut Gröger: "Allgemeine ärztliche Kongresse für Psychotherapie" (General Medical Congresses of Psychotherapy) and Their Viennese Participants

Summary: The underlying idea of the congresses, the first of which convened in Baden-Baden in 1926, was to strengthen the standing of psychotherapy in the medical community, to reconcile conflicting concepts, to find out what the different psychotherapy approaches have in common and to define the relations of psychotherapy to other medical fields. In order to support this endeavor, a society of the same name was founded and a journal was published. Between 1926 and 1931 the annual congresses were attended by numerous personalities from Vienna representing different schools of thought and orientations. The 1932 congress was to be held in Vienna, it was however postponed until 1933 and ultimately cancelled due to the political developments in Germany. The next congress was held in Bad Nauheim in 1934 with a decidedly National Socialist bias. Thus, what was originally meant to be a place for psychotherapists of different schools of thought and orientations to encounter each other ceased to exist – also for Viennese therapists.

*Keywords*: Psychotherapy, Medical Psychology, Medicine in National Socialism, Psychoanalysis, (Adlerian) Individual Psychology

#### III. History of Neurology and Neuropathology

# Philipp Boide, Holger Steinberg: The Neurologist and Psychiatrist August Bostroem and His Contribution to the Conceptual History of Westphal-Strümpell Pseudosclerosis and Wilson's Disease

Summary: The neurologist and psychiatrist August Bostroem (1886-1944) studied Westphal-Strümpell Pseudosclerosis and Wilson's Disease and early on in his research studies he uncovered the close relationship between both illnesses. This claim of their relationship however did cause disagreement within the German-speaking area. In this article I will present Bostroem's contribution to the conceptual history of a disease well-known today.

Keywords: August Bostroem, Carl Westphal, Kinnier Wilson, Wilson's Disease, Pseudosclerosis

# Christian Frauenlob, Ralf Schober, Holger Steinberg: Erwin Gustav Niessl von Mayendorf's Contribution to Aphasiology

Summary: NiessI von Mayendorf was a neurologist and neuroanatomist (1873-1943) who made a major contribution to the field of aphasia. His aphasiology is characterized by the idea of bilateral centers of senses and their memory as well as by the association of those centers. The morphological and physiological substrate of mental processes are constituted by these associations and the centers are requirements of these processes. The associations were regarded as functional associations and localizable and should not be confused with the anatomical association fiber tracts. A main theory of NiessI von Mayendorf is that the centers and their associations are present in both hemispheres. In case of the destruction of a sensory center or the associations, the right hemisphere takes over the function of the left one. The right hemisphere is not only responsible for the restitution of speech but also for pathological symptoms such as paraphasia. This theory seems to be confirmed by newer brain research results.

Keywords: aphasia, history of medicine, right hemisphere, neuroanatomy

## Christoph Schindler, Katrin Himmler: The Beginnings of Palaeoneurology in Due Consideration of Christfried Jakob

*Summary:* Palaeoneurology deals with the reconstruction of fossil brains and their interpretation by the means of comparative neuroanatomy. In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the neuropathologist Christfried Jakob and the zoologist Clemente Onelli published an atlas and some papers on this subject in Buenos Aires. In 1924 in Frankfurt/Main, Tilly Edinger, the daughter of Ludwig Edinger, began her research on this

subject in which she later became an expert. Palaeoneurology is in recent days a commonly accepted section of palaeontology.

Keywords: Palaeoneurology, Christfried Jakob, Ludwig Edinger, Tilly Edinger, Clemente Onelli, Hugo Spatz

#### Wolfgang Schlote: Ludwig Edinger and the Intelligence of Birds - An apology

Summary: With his observations in comparative neuroanatomy, Ludwig Edinger made a significant contribution with his detailed analysis of vertebrate brain anatomy and his establishing the relationship between brain anatomy and the behaviour and performances of relevant species. He was not interested in defining species in evolutional terms into lower or higher categories. Nowhere in his publications does he rely on the concepts of Charles Darwin even though he was well aware of his work. A recent announcement by a group of authors referring to themselves as the "Avian Brain Nomenclature Consortium" (Nature Reviews Neuroscience 2005) claims that the brain anatomy as proposed by Ludwig Edinger some one hundred years ago is incorrect and needs to be revised. For instance, these authors allege that Edinger was inspired by Darwin's ideas and combined them with the Scala naturae by Aristoteles in order to describe the vertebrate brain evolution as an unilinear, progressive process. Such reflections cannot be found in the work of Ludwig Edinger. Moreover, the group of authors discusses the anatomy of the avian brain and criticises Edinger's description of bird telencephalon, which according to Edinger had no pallium and he therefore designated the forebrain of birds as primitive. In contrast, in his original publication on the telencephalon of birds (1903), Edinger in extenso describes telencephalic pallium and cortex in birds as the structural basis of their highly intelligent behaviour. Most declarations of the above mentioned consortium of authors thus must be vehemently rejected.

*Keywords:* Ludwig Edinger, vertebrate brain evolution, comparative anatomy, avian telencephalon, intelligence of birds

# Bernd Holdorff: Max Nonne and War Neurosis: Using Film to Show War Tremblers Before and After Hypnosis by Max Nonne, Hamburg. In Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Death

Summary: From very early on Max Nonne (1861-1959) had contributed to the therapeutic use of hypnosis (1888); he had gathered insights from Charcot in Paris, from Bernheim in Nancy and Forel in Zürich as well as experiences in traumatic neuroses in hysteria before nerve doctors and psychiatrists were confronted with a wave of war neuroses in WWI. The war meeting of German nerve doctors and psychiatrists is known as the climax of discussions, and Nonne was the most important opponent of Hermann Oppenheim. His therapeutic concept consisted in the application of the persuasion method with a mild form of Kaufmann's electrotherapy and hypnosis. A separate symptomatological group is the object of the eight-minute-film showing movement disorders with hypercinesia and tremor (war tremblers), muteness, astasia-abasia and other disturbances and their disappearance after hypnosis with Max Nonne as examiner and demonstrator. It is one of the first medical educational films which was supposedly first shown by Nonne at a meeting of military doctors in Berlin in March of 1918. The last time it was shown by Nonne was in his last lecture in 1956 at the age of 95 years, 3 years before his death. Nonne concluded that the war neurosis in its various appearances could mainly be ascribed to hysteria and that Oppenheim's "traumatic neurosis" definitely had lost its civil right with WWI. The efficacy of hypnosis obviously was based on typical contemporary trust in authority. The ethical attitude of most doctors was geared toward the re-installment of the war service (back to the front).

Keywords: war neurosis, war tremblers, traumatic neurosis, Max Nonne, Hermann Oppenheim.

#### Jürgen Peiffer †, Wolfgang Schlote, Hans-Dieter Mennel: A Genealogy of German Neuropathology

Summary: This is an updated reworking of a manuscript by the late Jürgen Peiffer which provides an overview of the development of German neuropathology. It shows the different centres from where this specialisation could develop in conjunction with psychiatry, but also with early neurobiology and genetics. The trend toward an ongoing specialisation in neuropathology has intensified with the rise in molecular methods. From the beginning the field of neuropathology has concerned itself with neurological issues and the slogan "from bench to bedside" emphasises this tendency of late.

*Keywords*: Neuropathology Development, Psychiatry, basic neurological sciences, centres of development, molecular genetics and clinical neuropathology

#### Ulrike Eisenberg: Pavlovism in Neurology: A Contribution to the History of Neurology in the GDR

Summary: Since 1949 political institutions tried to functionalize the sciences in a political way in the infantile GDR. The Soviet Union had a dominant influence, yet not every effort of interference was successful. In the beginning of the 1950s, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) introduced the doctrines of the Russian physiologist I. P. Pavlov (1849-1936) to the medical sciences, specifically in opposition to the increasingly influential psychosomatic medicine prevalent in the western countries. Pavlov, who was the winner of the Nobel Prize in 1904, discovered "conditioned reflexes.". He experimented with the physiology of digestion, behavior and the nervous system. In 1950 Stalin declared Pavlov's doctrine as the most important field of research in the medical sciences. Dissenting research projects were suppressed. Stalin wanted to demonstrate that every physical and psychological process was primarily constituted of reflexes, as such proving the materialism that forms the basis of Marxism-Leninism. In 1953 the Pavlov Commission was founded in the GDR. The influential neurologists and psychiatrists Alexander Mette and Dietfried Müller-Hegemann were admitted as members. Politics and medicine were supposed to be closely linked with each other. One of the most important topics of neurological research was the phenomenon of aphasia. The new Pavlovian scientists tried to explain its principles, impact and therapeutical options, taking Pavlov's anatomical and physiological doctrines into consideration. However, their influence on the neurological sciences lost ground and ended within little more than ten years.

Keywords: Pawlow, Stalin, GDR, Neurology, Aphasia

#### IV. History of Neurosurgery

#### Hartmut Collmann: The Development of Craniofacial Surgery - A Path With Many Stumbling Blocks

Summary: From its beginnings until its recent history, craniofacial surgery has been faced with many errors, misconceptions and delusions. The first surgeons operated on micrencephalic children, confusing primary with secondary sutural fusion – an error which can be traced back to Rudolf Virchow. The impact of craniosynostosis on optic nerve function has long been attributed to local compression rather than to elevated intracranial hypertension. Likewise, mental impairment has been regarded as a consequence of craniosynostosis rather than a coincidental disorder. Most recently, positional deformity has been confused with sutural fusion. The multitude of errors exemplifies the intrinsic problem of a science predominantly based on empirical knowledge.

Keywords: craniosynostosis, craniostenosis, craniofacial surgery, history

## Hans Joachim Synowitz, Detlef Ernst Rosenow: The Establishment and the End of the Chair of Brain Surgery at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University in Berlin, 1937 - 1946

Summary: Against all usual academic procedure, the foundation of the first chair of neurosurgery in 1937 in Germany was initiated by the Secretary of the Ministry for the Sciences and National Education (Reichsministerium für Wissenschaft, Erziehung und Volksbildung) which violated unwritten academic conventions and demonstrates exemplarily the loss of academic independence during Nazi rule following March of 1933. Wilhelm Tönnis who received his training with Olivecrona in Stockholm had already gained an international reputation by then and had pioneered "modern" neurosurgery in Germany in the first half of the 1930s. At the same time, Hugo Spatz, who was also a pathologist with an international reputation and was working as a senior registrar at the psychiatric clinic of Bumke in Munich, was elected as successor of Oscar Vogt upon Vogt's suggestion. Vogt had lost his position as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Brain Research in 1934 because of his non-conformist political attitude towards official Nazi doctrines. Spatz in turn had already closely collaborated with Tönnis clinically and it is of no surprise that Spatz suggested Tönnis as head of the newly installed position as director of neurosurgery at the university. Before Spatz' appointment as the new chief of the KWI, he suggested to establish the "Department of Tumorbiology and Experimental Pathology" as part of the Brain Research Institute for Tönnis. Tönnis commenced his new position as head of the neurosurgical clinic in May of 1937 at the Hansaklinik, which was part of the Charité. Also in 1937 Tönnis was appointed as an associate professor of neurosurgery. Tönnis became a member of the Nazi party on May 1<sup>st</sup> in 1937. Already in August of 1939, Tönnis was drafted and with the beginning of WWII he served as a consulting neurosurgeon at various battle fields as a member of the German airforce. He was discharged from the army on 31 January 1946. Although there were efforts by the new university administration in Berlin to get Tönnis back to the neurosurgical chair, Tönnis started his post-WWII career in March of 1946 as head of the surgical department in Bochum-Langendreer. Thus, at the University of Berlin the first chair of neurosurgery existed from 1937 to 1946. Tönnis left Bochum in 1948 and was appointed as head of the newly installed neurosurgical clinic at the Cologne University. It was not before 1962 when a section of

neurosurgery which was part of the department of general surgery was founded at the Charité with R.R. Unger as its chief.

Keywords: Tönnis, Spatz, Vogt, KWI, Neurosurgery, brain research, Hansaklinik, Charité

# Boris Gianni Bradac: The Cerebral Aneurysm From a Historical Perspective: Antomical Discovery, Pathogenesis, Clinical Relevance, Therapy

Summary: The history of knowledge gained concerning cerebral aneurysm will be briefly described in this paper. Beginning with the first anatomical description by Morgagni in 1761 the focus will continue on to knowledge gained on its pathology and pathogenesis, its close relationship to subarachnoidal bleeding, the possibility of diagnosing the aneurysm "in vivo" as well as the improvement of the surgical and endovascular therapy.

Keywords: cerebral aneurysm, history, anatomical discovery, surgical and endovascular therapy

# Dieter Woischneck, Klaus Lerch, Hans Peter Richter, Hans-Joachim Winckelmann, Thomas Kapapa: Decompression of the Formamen Ischiadicum for Intractable Sciatica: Results Attained by Bernhard Heile, 1912 - 1922

Summary: The object of analysis is a historical method of exposure of the ischiadic nerve from the era prior to lumbar disc surgery. The aaterial and methods used are historical works between 1914 and 1922 by Bernhard Heile. He presumably was the first to suggest decompression of the sciatic nerve in the sciatic foramen. What we have found is that 7% of the patients who were presented underwent surgery. Using a strict diagnosis (therapeutic resistance, positive provocation tests), Heile achieved a pain-free status in 75% of the cases without surgical complications. With regard to the analyzed research work we can identify the attempt to break away from a concept of inflammation as a cause of sciatica in order to be able to use surgical techniques based on theories of mechanical genesis. The historical review advises caution on the success rates of not established surgical procedures of the degenerative spine.

Keywords: Sciatica, piriformis syndrome, intractable pain, outcome, history of medicine

#### V. Neuroscience and Society

# Horst Isermann: The Conference Year 1893: Differences of Opinion Between Theologians, Educators and Psychiatrists

Summary: Extreme differences of opinion have dominated the relationship between psychiatrists, educators and theologians with regard to the care and supervision of mentally ill persons for nearly 200 years. The differences especially between psychiatrists and educators emerged during conferences taking place in 1893. The psychiatrists demanded to take on the leadership of the institutions. Educators, in contrast, considered educators, clergymen and doctors to be equally capable in leading an institution. For all, however, therapeutic pedagogy dominated as the basic conception. In the present day both professions campaign for a tolerant attitude towards one another.

Keywords: mental retardation, institutions, psychiatry, special education

# Marcel Korge: From Brain Structure to Social Order: The Speech of the Neuroanatomist Paul Emil Flechsig at the Inauguration as Rector at the University of Leipzig in 1894.

Summary: In the inaugural speech as newly elected rector of the Leipzig University in 1894, the neuroanatomist Paul Emil Flechsig (1847-1929) expressed his views about the relations between body and mind as well as the importance and challenges of psychology as a growing field of science. While his educational and socio-political comments merely seem to be an aside, they nonetheless provide significant insights into the self-conception and understanding of the academic class, which looked upon itself as an educated elite which had the task of providing moral and ethicalguidace. A high claim for leadership was deduced from this conviction, but finally it could not be realised in imperial Germany. Expressive statements of this kind are frequent in the inaugural speeches of professors of sociology, law and economics. The example of the Flechsig's "Gehirn und Seele" illustrates that also physicians connected their research results with political conceptions and demands.

Keywords: Paul Emil Flechsig, Rektoratsrede, Neuroanatomy, Localization theory, Educated elite

## Wilhelm Rimpau: The Public Value of Medical Services: Viktor von Weizsäcker's Study Group on the Social Security Reform, 1932-1934

Summary: In 1881 Bismarck introduced the social security system in Germany which until today is considered as exemplary during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the crisis in the social security system led to numerous critiques and reforms. At that time Viktor von Weizsäcker (1886-1957), neurologist, philosopher and founder of anthropological medicine, developed a social therapy and published papers studying the correlation between the welfare system and social depravation. The gap between the mechanistic view on being handicapped as well as the inability to work and the human situation of the individual insurant led to new fundamental ideas with regard to the social system with economic consequences. Recently discovered documents reveal the work of Weizsäckers´ study group on social-political affairs and demonstrate relevance for the present debate.

Keywords: German social system, Viktor von Weizsäcker, study group on social-political affairs

# Ekkehardt Kumbier: The History of the Origins of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry Departments and Chairs at Universities in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) under special consideration of the University of Rostock

Summary: An important step in the development of child and adolescent psychiatry as an independent medical discipline at universities in Germany was the establishment of the initial chairs. This article describes the history of the origins of child and adolescent neuropsychiatry departments and chairs at universities in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), pointing to specific local conditions and the impact of general sociopolitical factors on the emergence of child psychiatry as a medical discipline at Rostock University. Its development was part of a general strive of a young discipline toward independence in Europe, and in German-speaking countries in particular, after World War II.

Keywords: East Germany (GDR), History of child and adolescent neuropsychiatry, University Psychiatric and Neurological Clinic in Rostock, socio-political influence

### Jan Armbruster: Kurt Erich Moser (1895-1982): A Life "Between the Worlds"

Summary: Following his own memoirs "Erinnerungen und Betrachtungen zwischen zwei Welten" 

Memories and Observations Between Two Worlds the author reproduces Kurt Moser's biography. He was born of a relationship not befitting his social status, and consequently Moser was faced with a number of difficulties right from the outset of his academic career. Nonetheless, he succeeded in ascending through the ranks of his profession relatively rapidly to become assistant medical director and acting head of the University Hospital of Psychiatry and Neurology in Königsberg. On the verge of securing a tenured professorship, his hopes were dashed abruptly with the National Socialists' rise to power. On the one hand, Moser did not want to be politically monopolised by the NS-system and decided to switch and work in a private practice, despite of how detrimental this would be for his academic career. On the other, however, he remained at a close distance to the NS-system in that he worked as an appraiser, as a youth psychiatrist for Eastern Prussia, a panel doctor for the Wehrmacht (the Armed Forces of the Third Reich) and as a member of the high court for genetic health (Erbgesundheitsobergericht) in Königsberg. As a result, he was in a position fraught with contradiction. At the end of World War II, Moser was forced to flee with his family. His first stop was Greifswald, where he was offered a position as chair and once again the price to be paid was membership in the party. He turned the position down however and moved on to Stralsund, where he carried out significant development work in the field of neurology. Then he went on to assume the duties of first senior consultant to the neurological clinic that was established there. He also acted as medical director. Whereas his sons emigrated to America early on in order to pursue their professional objectives, Moser remained in the GDR where he was essentially trapped "between worlds" and continued to do clinical work. Nonetheless he never did succeed in picking up where he had left off as a researcher.

Keywords: Kurt Moser, Königsberg, World War II, Stralsund

#### VI. Neuroscience in the National Socialism

Wolfgang Firnhaber: To What Extent Did the National Socialist Eugenic Ideas Influence the First Annual Meeting of the Society of German Neurologists and Psychiatrists (GDNP) in Dresden in 1935?

Summary: The proceedings of the Society of German Neurologists and Psychiatrists (GDNP) from 1935 are analysed for eugenic contributions made, which were strongly influenced by the National Socialist regime at that time. Many papers were written by unequivocal advocates of its by today's understanding dehumanising ideology. Many authors however strictly adhered to scientific principles. The discussions conducted with regard to the papers were for the most part free from ideological influence. Some authors were classified merely as 'tacid supporters', i. e., they remained uncharged by the post-war denazification court procedures in spite of their vicinity to the National Socialist ideology. Their careers were not impaired in any way. Distinguishing between neurologists and psychiatrists, it can be said that the former were not incorporated into National Socialist eugenic tendencies. In contrast, they tried to rely heavily on scientific principles, which were advocated in particular by *Heinrich Pette*. The situation is however different with regard to psychiatrists and neuropathologists. Some of the issues were already dealt with, but many issues still remain untouched.

*Keywords:* The First Meeting oft the Society of German Neurologists and Psychiatrists (GGNP) in 1935, eugenics, epilepsy, lues, Heinrich Pette.

### Thomas Müller: The History of Psychiatry, Nationalist Socialism and the 'Holocaust'. Initial Results of a New Research Project

Abstract: This paper focuses on the methods, objects and projected outcome of a research project in the making. Results of preliminary studies and the analytical framework will also be presented. The aim of this project, which is conducted by a larger group of researchers, is to learn more about the regional specificity and history of what has come to be named 'national socialist psychiatry', 'euthanasia' and the relation to the 'Holocaust.' At the center of attention will be the preconditions, major steps and the consequences of the German history of psychiatry under Nationalist Socialism. Within the larger framework of well-known and international academic contributions on this subject matter, this research project will add a regional or microhistorical perspective based on case studies.

Keywords: Psychiatry, National Socialism, Holocaust, Shoah, South Western Germany

#### VII. Psychiatry and Neurology in the literature

#### Eberhard Gabriel: "Berichte aus dem Irrenhaus" (Reports From the Lunatic Asylum), Vienna 1924

Summary: In 1924 a small Viennese company published "Reports From the Lunatic Asylum" by an anonymous author. The cover was a multicolored picture full of stereotypes with regard to psychiatric patients, yet its contents portrayed representative case vignettes which seemed to be interesting to the public, to the author and to his editor. The case vignettes concerned patients of the asylum (up to 1907) and of the new psychiatric hospital *Am Steinhof* (from 1907 on). These vignettes deal primarily with the case histories and biographies of patients and rarely with the external conditions of their lives at the hospital. The conditions of the hospitalization are not questioned, neither in the texts of the author nor in the preface and epilogue of the editor. Thus, they stand in sharp contrast to the notorious deficiencies in both institutions which were severely overcrowded.

In the meanwhile the author has been identified with a high probability: his name is Anton Rubinstein (1862-1923), a well-educated clerk experienced in this world and who himself was hospitalized with only short interruptions from the outbreak of his illness in 1890 up until his death. He suffered from a rather typical manic-depressive illness. During the intervals between episodes of up to two years, he used to work as a secretary in the offices of the hospital. There he was able to collect all the material for his 'memoirs' on popular personalities, then and now (e.g., Hugo Wolf or a famous burglar) or patients with personal histories that seemed to be interesting and/ or moving to the author (e.g., a murderer or a Russian officer captured in World War I). These stories and the story of the author himself mirror the living conditions of such people around 1900. They are compared with a memorandum about the overcrowding (and its atmospheric consequences in the wards) sent to the responsible minister of health and social affairs of the City of Vienna who ran the hospital, Julius Tandler, by the director Josef Berze in 1926.

*Keywords:* psychiatry in Vienna about 1900, Leo Schidrowitz publisher, Reports from the Mental Hospital, Vienna 1924, Psychiatric Hospital Am Steinhof, Josef Berze, Julius Tandler

#### Christina Vanja: The Insane Asylum in Life and Work of Swiss Author Friedrich Glauser (1896-1938)

Summary: Friedrich Glauser, born in Vienna as the son of an Austrian mother and a Swiss father, had several times in his life come in contact with "closed houses." the first time for three years in a home for youth, later on because of drug addiction he lived in various psychiatric clinics in Switzerland and in Belgium.

Prisons, soldiers' barracks and institutions for the poor, sick and insane played an important role in Glauser's novels. Contrary to many fantastic thrillers, Glauser's descriptions was always based on his own history of sufferings. The central figure in his criminal stories is police sergeant (*Wachtmeister*) Studer, a man who similar to Glauser himself was not very successful in his career. Studer is also the inspector in Glauser's second detective story "Matto regiert" (1936), a novel playing in a madhouse near Bern in the 1920s. The director of the asylum was murdered. A male patient is suspected who managed to escape that night. He once suffocated his own child. While Glauser describes the solution of the case he shows us the whole building for the insane, doctors, waiters and psychiatric theories on daily life of the inmates. Everything seems very well ordered, but "Matto", the spirit of madness, brings the house in imbalance at night. The atmosphere is always oscillating between rationality and irrationality.

Keywords: Friedrich Glauser, detective story, history of psychiatry, insane asylum, Switzerland

#### Hans-Dieter Mennel: Thomas Mann and Neurobiology

Summary: Natural science and medicine became integrated parts of Thomas Mann's work following his great novel "The Magic Mountain" (Zauberberg). However, in his early work he presents some odd characters both in his first novel Buddenbrooks and in his short stories published around 1900. These strange people, generally interpreted as degenerated, neurasthenic, nervous or hysteric, already belong into the categories of contemporary psychiatry. However, these peculiar characters of Thomas Mann's novellas also fit into the types of psychopaths described later by the German psychiatrist Kurt Schneider. Thus, Thomas Mann obviously was interested in questions of psychiatry, psychopathology and even parapsychology form his early beginnings as a writer. He went into the neurophysiological and -biological conditions of the human mind more deeply in pertinent parts of "Zauberberg". In his late work, namely "Doctor Faustus" and the short story "The Black Swan" (Die Betrogene), the novelist depicted human pathologic behaviour as a consequence of organic disease. A gradual evolution from psychogenic to organic causation of psychopathological states may be seen in this process. Furthermore, the question of the interconnection of brain and mind had been posed openly by the author in the short story "The Transposed Heads" (Die vertauschten Köpfe - Eine indische Legende). In this story, a female loves the intelligence of one and the strong body of the other of two male friends. When however due to an accident the heads are transposed, the problem seems to be solved. Yet this solution is of short duration, the former condition is again reached and the switching of the heads proves ineffective. In his novella Thomas Mann indicates that there is no easy solution to the body-mind problem, a problem which is fundamental to the fields of neurobiology and neurophilosophy.

Keywords: Thomas Mann's literary work, psychiatry in Thomas Mann's early stories, Natural science in the "Zauberberg" and thereafter, progress from psychogenic to organic causation, neurobiology and neurophilosophy in "Die vertauschten Köpfe".

#### Hans-Otto Dumke: August Strindberg - His Life, Work and Psychiatric Disorder

Summary: August Strindberg was born on January 22, 1849 in Stockholm (Sweden) as the fourth of eight children of his parents Carl Oskar Strindberg and Ulrika Norling. After graduating from high school he began studying various subjects in Uppsala but did not complete any of them. He also quickly ended his training to become an actor. After a short career as editor for several newspapers, he dedicated his entire time to writing. Strindberg was married three times; none of the marriages lasted long and all of them ended unhappily. He accomplished a breakthrough in his writing career with the novel "The Red Room". Strindberg wrote world literature such as the dramas "The Father", "Miss Julie", "A Dream Play", "The Death Dance" and "Sonata of a Ghost.". August Strindberg suffered from confusion psychosis, a subform of the cyclic psychosis first described by Leonhard. After the psychotic phases which appear together with agitation or inhibition, he usually recovered completely and was able to work to the full extent as a writer. Strindberg died on May 14, 1912 of stomach cancer.

Keywords: Life story, marriages, literary, personality, psychiatric disorder

VIII. "Crossing the line"

# Peter Theiss-Abendroth: Albert the Great's *scientia de anima*: Empirical and Speculative Thinking in High Scholasticism

*Summary:* Intellectual life in Europe turned highly dynamic when an increasing number of Greek and Arabic texts became available in Latin translation from the 12<sup>th</sup> century on. The Dominican friar Albert the Great (about 1200-1280) played a central role in this process. In those fields of knowledge which today are

considered as belonging to psychology and neuropsychiatry he continued synthesizing Galenic medicine with Aristotelian psychology as begun by Arabian philosophers-physicians. Yet he also added numerous observations of his own and integrated them into his original model of receiving, transporting and processing or misjudging sensory data. Thereby he showed a remarkable degree of independence from theological limitations.

Keywords: Albert the Great, Aristotle, scholasticism, psychology, melancholia

#### Stephan Jaster: From the Life of the 'Mad' Elisabeth of Braunschweig-Lüneburg

Summary: Duchess Elisabeth of Braunschweig-Lüneburg introduced the reformation in her duchy located in south-eastern Lower Saxony. She was considered to be mad in the files of her son-in-law Albrecht Friedrich of Prussia. Comparing the original files and other contemporary sources as well as secondary literature it can be doubted that Elisabeth was mad.

Keywords: Reformation, 16th century, Elisabeth of Braunschweig-Lüneburg, Madness, Albrecht Friedrich of Prussia

#### Manfred Müller-Küppers: Beethoven's Nephew - A Tragic Upbringing

Summary: This article deals with a hybrid issue at the disciplinary borders between musicology, developmental psychology and adolescent psychiatry. It is the description of a long and ultimately dramatic, crisis-filled chain of events which occurred within the last twelve years of Beethoven's life. After a providing an overview of the "nephew conflict", the study, which is based on biographical sources available through research conducted on Beethoven, focuses on Beethoven as guardian. His educational goals and practices are analyzed taking the ideology of upbringing within a specific socio-cultural context into consideration as well as the biographically relevant phase character of the nephew conflict and the accusations with regard to the the origin, culmination and tragic solution of the conflict.

Keywords: Pathography, Genius, Insanity, Fame, Beethoven

#### Roland Schiffter: The Suffering of Charles Darwin, a Difficult Differential Diagnosis

Summary: The ailment, symptoms and progression of Darwin's illness, which lasted almost 45 years, have been analysed using the available literature, including Darwin's autobiography. The results were that Darwin's chronic sickness was a variation of Crohn's disease with important psychosomatic influences. He died as a consequence of myocardial infarctions.

Keywords: Darwin's illness, differential diagnosis, Morbus Crohn, psychosomatic medicine