

Abstracts

HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF PSYCHIATRY IN WÜRZBURG

Hans Michael Straßburg

Contributions about the treatment of neurological ill children from the Wuerzburg University between 1830 and 1940

Summary: This article will give an insight in the scientific activity with neurological ill children at the Medical Faculty of Wuerzburg University from the second third of the 19th century till the beginning of second world war and by this in the development of paediatric specialisation at that time. Important representatives were for example the clinicians Johann Lukas Schoenlein, Franz von Rinecker, Carl Gerhardt, Jussuf Ibrahim and Hans Rietschel, in addition the pathologist Rudolf Virchow. Several special diseases like the purpura rheumatica, different forms of meningitis, the progressive muscular dystrophy or connatal skull deformities were described very early. Of high importance are the foundation of the first stable children's hospital at a german university 1850 by von Rinecker and the edition of the first textbook of paediatrics by Gerhardt. Many aspects which are important in neuropaediatrics of today, e. g. developmental neurology, genetical and metabolic diseases, apparative diagnostics and medical or surgical treatments were not or only marginal mentioned.

Keywords: history of neuropaediatrics, Wuerzburg, first Children's University Hospital in Germany

Mario Löhr

Friedrich Fehleisen (1854–1924): A Physician From Würzburg as Pioneer of the (Neuro)Oncological Immunotherapy

Summary: The ongoing success of immunomodulatory strategies against systemic malignancies and malignant brain tumors has renewed interest in the historical origins of (neuro)oncological immunotherapy. William Coley is generally acknowledged as the “father of cancer immunotherapy”. By injecting living streptococci into superficially growing sarcoma and carcinoma in the 1890s he was able to cure as much as 20% of his patients. Later on he used inactivated bacteria, purchased as “Coley's toxin”, in hundreds of patients. However, the antitumoral effects of living bacteria were applied for the first time in oncological patients 10 years before the attempts made by Coley. In 1882 Friedrich Fehleisen, who was a resident at the surgical university hospital in Würzburg, identified “micrococci” as the cause for erysipelas. On 21 August 1882 Fehleisen inoculated streptococci into a huge fibrosarcoma. The patient developed a life-threatening infection with fever, and erysipelas spread over extensive areas of her skin. After recovery, the malignancy partially degenerated. In the second patient suffering from a recurrent breast-carcinoma, the tumor even disappeared completely. Fehleisen inoculated five other patients suffering from sarcoma, carcinoma and lupus, with varied results. In retrospect, he considered that the number of his observations were too few to generally recommend the use of streptococci in the treatment of malignant tumors. Notwithstanding the reputation of William Coley in combating cancer by the immunomodulatory properties of bacterial antigens in a large number of patients, Friedrich Fehleisen was the pioneer in establishing and applying this immunotherapeutic strategy in a standardized way for the first time a decade before.

Keywords: Friedrich Fehleisen, William Coley, Cancer Immunotherapy, Erysipela

Ulrike Eisenberg

Brain Swelling, Brainstem, Pipe Dreams? The Würzburg Neurologist and Psychiatrist Martin Reichardt (1874–1966) and His Relationship to National Socialism

Summary: From 1925 until his retirement in 1939, Martin Reichardt was a full professor for neurology and psychiatry at Würzburg. Already as a young researcher he published his groundbreaking research on so-called “dry” and “wet” brain swelling and on measurements of cranial capacity and brain size. Years later he worked on the significance of the brainstem as a centre of the brain and on the relationship between brain activity and mind. Furthermore, he was one of the pioneers in the field of sociomedical expertising of accident victims. At the same time he became not only an associate member of the SS in 1933 and member of the NSDAP in 1937, but published a book on “Psychology and Politics” in 1935. In that paper, he tried to justify National Socialism in a scientific-psychological way. And he promoted his long-term colleague Werner Heyde who succeeded him in his professorship in 1939. Between 1934 and 1936 Heyde was one of the leading members of the Department of Racial Politics of the NSDAP at Würzburg. He decided on forced sterilizations and was a leading official of “T4”, the euthanasia program claiming at least 100,000 victims. After WWII, Reichardt declared that he had been betrayed by the Nazi party and did not know anything about their crimes until the end of the war. He was denazified, continued his scientific career until old age and died at the age of 92, highly honoured.

Keywords: Reichardt, Brain Swelling, National Socialism, Psychology and Politics, Heyde

PSYCHIATRY AND SOCIETY BETWEEN DEMANDS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Uta Kanis-Seyfried

“Cowardly malingerers” or “Shell Shock Patients”? The traumatised soldiers of the First World War – The military hospital in the former asylum Weissenau

Summary: In 1917 a military hospital for WWI soldiers suffering from mental disorders was set up at the asylum of Weissenau. In addition to civil patients, as was the case in previous years, injured military personnel were treated there. Due to the ever-growing number of affected soldiers in the course of the war, there was the need for special hospitals for so-called war neurotics. In view of a growing number of mental disorders and associated persistent and manifold symptoms, hospitals near the frontlines were soon overwhelmed just as much as the conventional departments of the mental asylums were which tended to be understaffed and overcrowded. The epidemic development of war neuroses probably caused by the so-called shell shock syndrome – which resulted from fear of dying after a shell detonated, from spillages and from long waiting times in the trenches – became a political issue fiercely and controversially debated by physicians recruited by the military. The supposed “indiscipline and unmanly weakness of the patients” were not in line with the contemporary image of men. Based on selected examples of the asylum newspaper “Schallwellen” [*Sound Waves*], this study demonstrates the way a man was supposed to be, what the expectations were and what qualities were ideally attributed to him. In 1897 this newspaper was created and published by the asylum Bad Schussenried near Weissenau. Furthermore, the study focuses on the following issues: the equipment and situation of personnel in the asylum as well as in the hospital, in care, nutrition and treatment methods of the patients against the background of contemporary political-medical professional discourses.

Keywords: war, shock, soldiers, malingerer, image

Thomas Müller

National Socialist Biopolitics and the Option Treaties Between Germany and Italy, 1939–1945

Summary: The research project related to the chapter at hand intends to compare National Socialist biopolitics with respect to so-called resettlements of psychiatrically ill patients, disabled and old people in contrast to immigration efforts concerning healthy and young people of the same geographical region. Both migration processes were set into practice by means of the so-called option treaties between the German Reich and Fascist Italy as part of the general aspect of National Socialist biopolitics. During the resettle-

ment, patients as well as disabled and old people from various Northern Italian provinces were transferred to the Wuerttemberg asylums Zwiefalten, Schussenried and Weissenau near Ravensburg. It is shown how the abuse of medical patients by authorities and medical staff was associated with the aim of solving political problems that set in after biopolitical goals had been put into practice. In contrasting these processes of forced migration, the immigration of young and healthy people from the same Northern Italian regions to Wuerttemberg and beyond is portrayed.

Keywords: psychiatry, National Socialism, immigration, Germany, Italy, Austria

Thomas Schmelter

Forced sterilizations, MS research, disguised deportations – the medicinal and nursing home („Heil- und Pflegeanstalt“) Werneck during Nazism

“Werneck“ are introduced more closely: 1. The then patient in Werneck Wilhelm Werner left a number of drawings of artistic value, which deal with forced sterilization. Up till now they are the only known evidence of visual art concerning this subject. Later on Werner became a victim of „Aktion T4“ himself. 2. The Würzburg neurologist Professor Georg Schaltenbrand carried out experiments in MS research. He vaccinated chronically mentally ill people with the CSF of infected monkeys. After the war Schaltenbrand was professor in Würzburg und chairman of the German Society of Neurology. 3. In October 1940 the „Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Werneck“ was evacuated in order to make room for accommodating ethnic German resettlers. By announcing that the patients were transferred to the neighbouring nursing home Lohr, they could easily conceal that about 50% of the patients transported away were taken to the killing institutions of the „Aktion T4“.

Keywords: Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Werneck, Aktion T4, Wilhelm Werner, Georg Schaltenbrand

Theo R. Payk

Misuse of Psychiatric-Psychological Competence

Summary: Guided by speculative, irrational ideas for many centuries, the psychological medicine finally emancipated itself as a science in the middle of the 19th century. Located at the threshold between natural sciences and humanities, this discipline nonetheless remained susceptible to ideological instrumentalization on account of its theoretical bases and concepts of illness: up until recently therefore psychiatric-psychological competence was not only used in totalitarian systems for enforcing political aims and disciplining oppositional citizens.

Keywords: psychiatry, psychology, ideology, misuse, exploitation

Stefanie Coché

Psychiatric Commitments in the “Third Reich”, GDR and FRG: Results and Methodological Reflections

Summary: The article draws on my dissertation “Patterns of Exclusion: Commitment to Psychiatric Institutions in National Socialism, GDR and FRG (1941-1963)” which explores processes of commitment to psychiatric institutions during WWII and in postwar Germany. Following Foucault I argue that the selection of people sent to a mental institution provides substantial information about the respective societies. Using patients’ and administration files from six psychiatric institutions as well as propaganda material, scientific articles and regulations, statues and laws on commitment, my thesis traces the actual practice of and the discourse on commitment to psychiatric institutions. I explore the process of commitment to those six institutions from 1941 until 1963, thus analyzing how the practices in the “Third Reich” changed and/or continued in both the immediate postwar period in the different occupied zones and in the two successor states, the FRG and the GDR.

Keywords: psychiatric commitment, National Socialism, GDR, FRG

HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF BRAIN SURGERY

Irmtraut Sahmland

The Dispute about the Meaning of Microcephalia

Summary: Subsequent to Darwin's theory of evolution the old idea of the great chain of being was placed into a new scientific and almost materialistic setting. The evolution of mankind was intricately connected to the history of animals. However there were only but a few paleoanthropologic findings to serve as evidence. In order to fill the missing link, Carl Vogt in the 1860s declared microcephalia as an atavistic form reminiscent of a long past status. Although nothing but a mere episode in the history of science, this broadly discussed topic of atavism was nonetheless of great significance for patients with microcephalia. They became strongly desired objects for research studies. As is exhibited here, this is also due to inmates at the Hessian hospitals Haina and Merxhausen. It furthermore seemed questionable whether these patients were apemen or human beings. In this dimension, the dispute about microcephalia emphasized and strengthened tendencies to stigmatize, to disparage and to exclude severely mentally disabled people.

Keywords: Microcephalia, Felix Marchand, Patients' history, Hessian Haina and Merxhausen Hospitals, Pathological Anatomy

Bernd Holdorff

Oppenheim's Contribution to the Emerging Discipline of Neurosurgery

Summary: Hermann Oppenheim (1858–1919) was not only one of the most prolific German neurologists, but also a promoter of the still young discipline of neurosurgery by localizing the brain or spinal tumours (without technical aids) and guiding his surgical colleagues Ernst von Bergmann, Fedor Krause or Max Borchardt to where the tumour is located. Not denying the misdiagnoses or the initial poor neurosurgical results and as the first or sole author of many papers on this topic, he himself claimed priority and equality with his surgical colleagues by stressing his pioneering diagnostic results. With growing experience the surgical procedures could be extended to hitherto untouched regions, e.g., to the superior colliculi (pineal gland) and cerebellar-pontine angle. In spinal extramedullary tumours a cure rate of at least 50% could be claimed. „Enchondromas“ in the cervical and lumbar spinal canal (Oppenheim and Krause, 1909, 1914) actually represent early surgical cases of herniated discs.

Keywords: Hermann Oppenheim, diagnostic neurosurgery, tumors of the superior colliculi (pineal gland) and cerebellar-pontine angle, spinal tumors, „enchondromas“ = disc mass rapses

Detlef Ernst Rosenow, Michael Synowitz und Hans Joachim Synowitz

On German Neurologists' Renunciation to Perform Neurosurgery

Summary: At the end of the 19th century neurologists in Europe routinely diagnosed central nervous system pathologies, leaving surgeons to operate on these patients. In 1897 the Russian neurologist Vladimir Bechterew suggested that neurologists carry out these operations themselves. In 1910 he established a neurosurgical department at his clinic, which was headed by his pupil Ludvig Puusepp. However, not only did neurology begin to progressively detach itself from internal medicine to form an independent entity at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century, but also neurology merged with specialized surgery in the early decades of the 20th century to become neurological surgery. In Germany it was the neurologist Otrifd Foerster who in 1906/07 began operating on his own patients without having any surgical skills due to his disappointment of the operative results by his surgical colleagues who carried out surgeries on his patients with neurological conditions. He may therefore be considered the founder of neurological surgery in Germany. In the late 1930s the neurologist Heinrich Pette from Hamburg claimed the right for neurologists to carry out surgeries themselves. Moreover, initially neurosurgical departments were implemented in two university clinics of mental disease (in Hamburg in 1937 and in Frankfurt on the Main in 1937) as neurological surgery was considered a part of neurology rather than of surgery. These attempts and the establishment of independent

neurosurgical units as was the case in Würzburg in 1934 were halted in 1939 after the outbreak of WWII, when, upon ministerial order, neurosurgery was re-integrated into general surgery.

Keywords: Neurology, Neurosurgery, M. Bechterew, O. Foerster, H. Pette

Lara Rzesnitzek

Leukotomy in Postwar Germany

Summary: The introduction of psychosurgery in the occupied territories and later in a divided postwar Germany (Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and German Democratic Republic (GDR)) is analyzed up until the end of the 1950s with a focus on international relations and their protagonists. At which clinics was leucotomy carried out, when and by whom? Who discussed the new method in which scientific journal and who published own results? Did the emigration of German neurologists and psychiatrists have an influence as specialized doctors now returning to Germany? To what degree did international contacts that had been made during emigration play a role? What was the impact of scientific-political interventions as for example the ban of leucotomy in the Soviet Union at the end of 1950? Publications of national and international meetings of psychiatric and neurological societies will serve as sources, in addition to scientific articles or dissertations. Moreover, medical patient records of a couple of university clinics and state mental hospitals as well as personal files, including correspondences, will be used to illuminate the influence psychosurgery had on the rehabilitation of postwar German psychiatry as well as the growth of neurosurgery as an independent discipline.

Keywords: psychosurgery, postwar psychiatry, history of neurosurgery, leucotomy, international exchange

HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Ernst Holzbach

The Typology of Theophrastos of Eresos in the 3rd Century BC

Summary: While in the 5th century BC the Greek philosopher Empedocles tried to deduce a psychological typology from external phenomenon ('elements') and Hippocrates from the phenomenon of the human organism ('humoral pathology'), Theophrast observed different extreme forms of attitudes and ways of behavior. He uses the term 'character' for the first time. Theophrast describes 30 ways characters developed based on the typology of Aristoteles, who already described extreme forms of human behavior as a 'personality deviation'. 'Character traits' of Theophrast can again be found in our present classifications of personality disorders, which is consequently the reason why it needs to be further investigated why the manifestation of Theophrast "types" are represented only in literature and why the medical science has held on to the humoral pathology of Hippocrates for a long time.

Keywords: character traits, typology, Theophrastos, ancient Greek literature

Tobias Wustmann

One Hundred Years Ago: *Die Grundlagen der Psychologie* by Theodor Ziehen

Summary: The two-volume opus *Die Grundlagen der Psychologie [Foundations of Psychology]*, which was published in 1915, is the most important work on psychology by Theodor Ziehen (1862-1950). This paper tries to make an exegesis of this monograph and to allocate the entirety of psychological writings of his time. In particular, the proclaimed psychophysiological epistemology, the concept of *Gignomen* introduced by Ziehen, his conception of *consciousness*, of *awareness* and the *unconscious psyche* as well as the so-called *indigenous method* will be illustrated.

Keywords: Theodor Ziehen, psychology

Kai Sammet

„Objects and Methods: Friedrich Meggendorfer, Huntingtons Disease, Anatomy, Psychology and *Vererbungs*forschung at the Asylum Hamburg-Friedrichsberg Around 1925

Summary: Around 1920 four scientific departments existed at the asylum in Hamburg-Friedrichsberg: an anatomical, serological, a genealogical and a psychological laboratory. The department of genealogy was led by Friedrich Meggendorfer. In 1923 he wrote a paper about mental disturbances in Huntingtons disease where he amongst others described Bernhard V., exemplifying different scientific approaches and their relationship. V. was tested in the psychological laboratory, examined genetically and his brain was examined after he died. Each scientific approach aimed at different scientific objects with different methods. The paper examines these different approaches and their relations in scientific research in Friedrichsberg.

Keywords: Psychiatry Weimar Republic, asylum Hamburg-Friedrichsberg, history of experimental psychology, history of histopathology, history of *Erblichkeitsforschung*

IN SEARCH FOR THERAPIES IN PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY

Thomas Mokrusch

The History of Electrotherapy: A Short Summary of its Development Dating From Antiquity Until Today

Summary: Electrotherapy underwent many ups and downs during its development over 2000 years, starting with the first publication in 47 AD and ending in the present day. Thousands of studies have been conducted internationally, which will be further illustrated here with the help of a little time travel. The slave Anthereo was the first to benefit from electrotherapy while he unintentionally came in contact with a torpedo fish, an animal that is able to repetitively deliver high voltage electrical impulses, similar to transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation. At that point Anthero experienced a distinct reduction in pain. Some centuries later, experimental therapies began with artificial electricity generated by rubbing against amber. With the use of „electric wind“ and similar mystic trials in the 16th century, the history of electrotherapy was continued until finally science started to bring light into the dark of these seemingly fantastical phenomenon. Until the 19th century von Guericke, Galvani and Faraday need to be mentioned since they tried to explain the influence of electrostimulation on the living organism before Duchenne de Boulogne, the „father of electrotherapy“, carried out his groundbreaking investigations. Reid finally published the first animal experiments in 1841, treating peripheral nerve lesions in cold-blooded animals. These were followed by the outstanding investigations conducted by Buller and Eccles in the early 20th century on warm-blooded animals. Some decades later the so-called functional electrostimulation came into being with the publication by Liberson on the drop-foot-stimulator. The following development of electrotherapy is described only excursively, starting with the cardiac pacemaker, touching on the cochlear implant and reaching up to the brain-computer-interface. All these, however, are considered as part of the history of electrotherapy only in the distant future.

Keywords: electrotherapy, history

Bernd Reichelt

More Than a Supplement? Approaches Towards the History of Paramedical Therapy in West German Psychiatry After 1945

Summary: In the first two decades after WWII, West German psychiatry oscillated between continuity and reorientation. In the first few years after 1945 psychiatric treatment was still dominated by *Arbeitstherapie* [occupational therapy]. The beginning of the era of psychopharmacotherapy in the mid-1950s indicated a paradigm shift, changing the image of the psychiatric institution itself. The *Anstalt* [asylum] turned out to be a *Fachkrankenhaus* [mental hospital]. Within this context, social therapeutic and rehabilitative measures gained in importance. In these years the concepts of *nichtärztliche Therapien* [paramedical therapies] became important in the methods of diagnosis and treatment in mental hospitals. These new settings also extended the range of occupational groups in the hospital. Focusing on two forms of therapy – exercise therapy and

the so-called *Beschäftigungstherapie* [special occupational therapy] – the aim of this essay is to outline the development of the paramedical therapies using the example of Southwest German psychiatry and locating its role in the context of a transforming psychiatry after 1945.

Keywords: psychiatry, exercise therapy, sports therapy, psychiatric occupational therapy, psychotherapy, psychopharmacotherapy, postwar period

Joachim Heinrich Demling

The Serotonin Story, Part 2: Psychotropic Drugs With a Serotonergic Mechanism of Action – Discoveries and Developments

Summary: The chemical characterisation of serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT), its identification as a neurotransmitter in the brain as well as the discovery and development of psychotropic drugs with a serotonergic (also noradrenergic) action and the generation of initial hypotheses concerning their mechanism of action happened within a period spanning little more than 12 years. The first modern antidepressants were the monoamine oxidase inhibitors and the tricyclic reuptake inhibitors. The refinement of the mechanism of action of the tricyclics led to the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI), which selectively target the serotonin transporter (SERT), as well as to the selective serotonin-noradrenaline-reuptake inhibitors (SNRI). Buspirone, a serotonergic anxiolytic, and the majority of the atypical antipsychotics obtain their particular action profile basically from the interaction with *inter alia* 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT_{2A} receptors. In contrast, serotonin precursors and the so-called serenic (antiaggressive agents) failed to live up to the medicinal expectations placed on them. Interventions in 5-HT-receptor functions and the metabolism of serotonin are of fundamental importance for the mechanisms of action and action profiles of numerous indispensable psychotropic drugs.

Keywords: Serotonin, antidepressants, SSRI, atypical antipsychotics, history

PIONEERS AND PROTAGONISTS OF NEUROSCIENCE

Reinhard J. Boerner

„Mesmerism” and Its Reception During Romanticism: Some Comments on the 200th Anniversary of Franz Anton Mesmer’s Death

Summary: In the 18th century Mesmer created a new medical-psychological treatment that was controversial despite its success from the very beginning. During Romanticism Mesmerism was received positively since it was possible to gain a deeper insight into human psychological processes. After a brief overview of Mesmer’s biography, theory and therapy, his influence on philosophy, literature and medicine during this epoch will be discussed in more detail. Finally it will be explained why Mesmerism and Romanticism have an impact on the current debate on the theoretical foundation of psychiatry, psychology and psychotherapy.

Keywords: Mesmer, Mesmerism, Romanticism, philosophy, psychology

Philipp Gutmann

The Contribution Forensic Psychiatry by the Philosopher Johann Christoph Hoffbauer

Summary: In the development of psychiatry as a scientific discipline Johann Christoph Hoffbauer (1766–1827), a professor of philosophy in Halle (Saale), played an important role. Hoffbauer, a friend of the famous Johann Christian Reil, who beside other things coined the word *Psychiaterie* – after publishing some treatises on philosophical issues such as logic or the law of nature –, wrote a couple of books on diseases of the soul and their treatment in general. Hoffbauer was however also important for the development of forensic psychiatry and psychology, which is illustrated by his book entitled: *Die Psychologie in ihren Hauptanwendungen auf die Rechtspflege nach den allgemeinen Gesichtspunkten der Gesetzgebung oder die sogenannte gerichtliche Arzneywissenschaft nach ihrem psychologischen Theile* [psychology in its main application towards legal treatment in accordance to the overall aspects of law or the so-called judicial medical sciences and its psychological part] (1808). In this paper Hoffbauer takes a completely psychological point of view

in describing the state of a person while for example committing a crime. His paper is a partly forgotten milestone in the development of forensic psychiatry.

Keywords: Hoffbauer, forensic psychiatry, criminal responsibility, psychopathology

Norbert Andersch

Kurt Goldstein: A Pioneer of Neurosemiotics?

Summary: „Germany’s knowledge about Kurt Goldstein and his legacy is much smaller than it should be”. Such is the verdict of Anne Harrington, a US historian of medicine, 50 years after the world famous neurologist died in American exile while mostly unknown and ignored in his country of origin. In 1934 Goldstein’s most famous book *Der Aufbau des Organismus* [The Organism] was published in the Netherlands (in German). It was translated and reedited in different languages and countries, but it was not until 2014 that a very first edition was published in his German homeland alongside his far-reaching theories. Goldstein’s close connection to his philosopher cousin Ernst Cassirer and his activities in the Berlin School of Gestalt Theory position him as an early pioneer in bio- and neurosemiotics. However, ongoing efforts to reshape the philosophical underpinnings of Goldstein’s oeuvre towards a Husserlian phenomenological psychopathology undermine the most progressive aspects of his legacy.

Keywords: Kurt Goldstein, holism, psychopathology, Ernst Cassirer, Edmund Husserl

Stephan Jaster

Emil Kraepelin as the Founder of Transcultural Psychiatry

Summary: Emil Kraepelin is considered to be the founder of transcultural psychiatry. While with his journey to Java in 1903/1904 he neither had a personal nor a scientific interest, he nonetheless found that psychiatric diseases in other countries did not differ from diseases in Europe with the exception of the culture-specific mannerism of the native population. At the end of the 20th century, a more differentiated view resulted from a couple of international studies about transcultural psychiatry. In response to an increased migration of refugees from Africa or Asia to Europe, the DGPPN developed the Sonnenberger guidelines for psychiatric-psychotherapeutic care of migrants. In current times of changing requirements, it would be desirable that this theoretical model of care will again be filled with personal skills and expertise.

Keywords: Kraepelin, Java, transcultural psychiatry, Sonnenberger Guidelines

MISCELLANEA

Hans-Otto Dumke

The Beauty of Paranoia: Paul Kemmler’s Patient Photographs From the Early 20th Century

Summary: Dr. Paul Kemmler (1865–1929), who was the first clinical director of the newly founded sanatorium in Weinsberg, took approximately 1 000 photographs during his tenure between 1903 and 1915. The pictures include portraits and group portraits of patients and caregivers as well as buildings and parks that surrounded the clinic. A large majority of the photographs show the therapeutic situation of the clinic. Photographs of patients indicate the special caution and care by Kemmler as he took pictures, mainly reflecting the personality, social status and the dignity of the patients.

In addition to the professional and personal life of Kemmler, some of the impressive portraits of patients will be presented, especially during their clinical routine.

Keywords: Paul Kemmler, biography, photography, patient photographs, 20th century, Weinsberg sanatorium, therapeutic situation

Uwe-Jens Gerhard

Otto Binswanger and the Case of Princess Luise of Saxe-Altenburg

Summary: At first Princess Luise of Saxe-Altenburg (1873–1953) was engaged to Prince Günther Victor of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt (1852–1925). The princess' temperament was the crucial factor for their separation. In 1895 she married the subsequent duke Eduard I of Anhalt (1861–1918) who only governed for a few months and they subsequently divorced in 1918. Prior to the divorce Otto Binswanger (1852–1929), principal of the psychiatric clinic in Jena, furnished an expert opinion. Luise was not only divorced as a consequence, but she also was placed under disability by the local court of Altenburg on the basis of “extravagance” in 1919. This decision was adopted by the local court of Bayreuth in 1923. In 1927 the legal guardian applied for warding her due to “mental weakness”; with the decision of the Supreme Court in Munich the guardianship was again cancelled in 1928. Otto Binswanger recommended the hospitalisation of Princess Luise at the “Sanatorium Bellevue”. In March of 1918 she was probably brought to his nephew Ludwig Binswanger's (1881–1966) sanatorium, which was located in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland. On 21 May 1918 Ludwig Binswanger diagnosed a “psychopathic inferiority, whose main symptom is a defect on an intellectual basis”. The dynasties of Anhalt and Saxe-Altenburg honoured Otto Binswanger for his services. Throughout Luise's residence in Jena, Binswanger acted very conspiratorial, for instance suggesting a secret meeting with the Prince of Anhalt, her husband at the time, in a hotel in Halle/Saale. Great efforts were made to handle the affair discretely.

Keywords: Luise of Saxe-Altenburg, Otto Binswanger, forensic psychiatry, important psychiatric patients, psychiatric hospital Kreuzlingen