Abstracts

Historical Aspects in Mecklenburg

Kathleen Haack and Andreas Broocks

Carl Friedrich Flemming: An Appreciation

The occasion of the 27th annual conference of the German Society for the History of Neurology, which took place 28 to 30 September 2017 in the Carl Friedrich Flemming Clinic, HELIOS Kliniken Schwerin, will commemorate its namesake and his work as a major hospital psychiatrist of the 19th century. Sources from state archives in Mecklenburg (Schwerin) as well as relevant primary and secondary literature are not only used to trace his path towards the at that time new field of psychiatry and his role in the first new construction of a psychiatric hospital on German soil, but also his early withdrawal from the institutional operation in question. In addition, his scientific work will be historically classified.

Keywords: history, Schwerin-Sachsenberg, psychiatric asylum, 19th century

Bernd Kasten

Living and Working Conditions of Nursing Staff in the Asylum of Schwerin-Sachsenberg Between 1930 and 1945

In 1930 144 nurses looking after about 700 patients worked in the Schwerin-Sachsenberg asylum. Many of them also lived there. While the men mostly worked until their retirement, there was a high fluctuation among women who were only allowed to work until they married. The professional qualification of nurses was initially very low, but improved over time. Since 1930 the asylum offered an annual training course, which was concluded with the examination as an “insane keeper”. The working conditions were hard and the staffing sparse. Even before 1939 restless patients were quieted with sleeping pills.

With the outbreak of war in September 1939 the younger male nurses were called in and also among female nurses there were more and more vacant positions. The remaining nursing staff was increasingly overwhelmed. Particularly difficult was the care of obese and needy patients, as well as the care of aggressive and unruly patients. Alfred Leu (1900–1975), the physician responsible for the asylum’s care department, had instructed staff since 1940 to poison these patients with an overdose of sleeping pills and found no resistance in the nursing staff. When Leu ordered to kill a patient, the responsible station nurse mixed 10–30 tablets of Veronal or Luminal into the food.

In 1946 a nurse and three male nurses were convicted in Schwerin, but certainly more members of the nursing staff were involved in the murders. Since it was not easy after 1945 to find qualified personnel for the asylum, the government waived further investigations and continued to employ numerous nurses who had worked at the asylum between 1939 and 1945.

Keywords: Schwerin-Sachsenberg, nursing staff, euthanasia murders
Jörg Pink

Psychiatric Hospital at Sachsenberg: Paths From Classical Institutional Psychiatry After 1945

Following National Socialism, a gradual reconstruction of the psychiatric care structures began in the Soviet occupation zone and later in the GDR partially under very difficult conditions. It was necessary to cope with the diverse situations of shortage such as food, staff, drugs, clothing, fuel and space. Consulting the relevant administrative and patient records as well as publications and lectures from this period, it was investigated whether special emphasis was placed in the former Psychiatric Hospital (Heil- und Pflegeanstalt) Sachsenberg (since 1960 Bezirksnervenklinik Schwerin), which later flowed into reform efforts of East German psychiatrists. Furthermore, it was investigated if the envisaged psychiatry reforms after 1963 had influenced the development of care structures in the service area of Schwerin apart from co-optation in healthcare. Particular focus was paid on the welfare system on the one hand and on the other on decentralized psychiatric treatment institutions.

The study also investigated the cooperation of the clinic with the pharmaceutical industry with regard to the introduction and testing of new psychotropic drugs in the 1950s and 60s. Already before the formulation of the Rodewischer Thesen in 1963 theoretical and practical preparatory work and developments had taken place in the sense of reforming the transformation if care structures for mentally ill persons. The involvement of the local hospital was examined in more detail, particularly using the example of the Department of Rehabilitation and its connections with other psychiatric institutions and their protagonists in Leipzig, Dresden or Brandenburg-Gördern.

Keywords: Psychiatric rehabilitation, Sachsenberg, psychiatric history, GDR

Nathalie Bashian, Uwe K. Zettl and Ekkehardt Kumbier


The neurologist Johannes Sayk (1923–2005) developed the cell sedimentation chamber at the beginning of the 1950s. This method made it possible for cells of CSF to view the CSF image in a quality comparable to the blood picture.

With this chamber can be analyzed for the first time with a quality comparable to the blood profile, using a low technological expenditure and all staining methods suitable for hematological cells. The procedure was quick and cost efficient to where it was easy to integrate it into clinical routine. Soon it became a widely used procedure. In Europe, it was considered to be the standard method for cytdiagnosis of CSF until the 1990s. Beside the life and work of Sayk, the development of his cell sedimentation chamber will be highlighted, particularly from a historical perspective as a new method of clinically utilizable cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) cytology. Furthermore, Sayk invented a test for examining the cerebellar function and discovered a so-called thalamical pain reflex. In addition to the review of literature in search of primary and secondary sources on the history of CSF diagnosis, documents in the archives of the Universities of Rostock and Jena, the Brain Research Institute of Cécile and Oskar Vogt in Düsseldorf and the Centre for Neurology at Rostock University were used. Sayk’s method was a revolution in CSF diagnostics and paved the way for modern qualitative CSF cytology. Over time the cytocentrifuge superseded the cell sedimentation chamber as standard method for CSF cytology.

Keywords: Johannes Sayk, Cell Sedimentation chamber, CSF cytology, Cerebrospinal Fluid
Psychiatry and Society – social and cultural Aspects

Kai Sammet

Questions of a Reading Bulb: Who Does What? How is this Described and Who Produces Scientific Knowledge? Notes on a Male Laboratory Attendant from 1890 to 1930

In spring of 1930 Wilhelm Weygandt, then head of the asylum in Hamburg-Friedrichsberg, published an obituary on Richard Muss, a former laboratory supervisor in Friedrichsberg. The paper at hand discusses Muss’ working biography, his position in the division of work in a complex organization. The paper especially tries to discuss Muss’ part in the production of scientific knowledge and his different activities in the complex scientific organization at Friedrichsberg.

Keywords: laboratory attendants, fabrication of scientific knowledge, anatomical laboratory, asylum Hamburg-Friedrichsberg

David Freis

The Soul of the Nation: Psychiatry, Politics and Society in the Inter-War Period

This paper documents the lecture of the recipient of the DGGN’s bi-annual dissertation prize for the doctoral thesis ‘Curing the Soul of the Nation: Psychiatry, Society, and Psycho-Politics in the German-speaking Countries, 1918–1939’ (Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Florence 2015). In a first section, I summarize the dissertations main thesis, its scope and perspective: the increasing presence of psychiatric experts in social and political debates of the inter-war period, whose claims to diagnose and shape society I describe as ‘psycho-politics’. The following section discusses the three interconnected case studies of the thesis: psycho-political diagnoses of the social and political situation at the end of WWI and the 1918/19 German revolution, the Viennese psychiatrist Erwin Stransky’s project of ‘applied psychiatry’ as well as the networks that his manifesto for ‘medical imperialism’ helped to create both in Austria and abroad and finally, the culmination of various approaches to psychiatric prevention and reform in the international movement for mental hygiene, which emerged in the United States and reached the German-speaking countries in the mid-1920s. I conclude by restating the main findings of my research about the complex relationships between psychiatry, society and politics in the inter-war period.

Keywords: Inter-war period, politics, reform psychiatry, mental hygiene, eugenics, psycho-politics

Steffen Dörre

The Psychiatric Enquiry as a Challenge: The Organisational Transformation of the German Association for Psychiatry in the First Half of the 1970s

This article analyses how the German Association for Psychiatry [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychiatrie und Nervenheilkunde (DGPN)] responded to the challenges of the Psychiatric Enquiry, an expert commission’s report on the state of psychiatry in the Federal Republic of Germany (1971–1975). The starting point of the inquiry is the assumption that scientific associations typically undergo fundamental transformations in periods of great pressure or profound changes in response to external conditions. On the basis of previously unanalysed archival reports, I will show that the commission’s report further catalysed a process of change, both directly and indirectly. As a result, by the mid-1970s the DGPN was no longer a mostly volunteer-run association, but had formed a differentiated organisational structure
which opened new scope for action. However, the decisions that set the path for transformation were made under completely different conditions in the second half of the 1960s. This is why the effect of internal reforms on the psychiatric association’s efficiency remained limited.

Keywords: Psychiatrie-Enquete, resource mobilisation, advocacy group

Alexander Luther

The Dehospitalisation of the Psychiatric Hospital Eichberg/Eltville in the 1990s

The dehospitalisation of persons, who had to submit to the regime of traditionally accepted hospital and ward regulations for many years after an episode of psychiatric illness, is described considering long-lasting continuities in the history of psychiatry as well as its institution, i.e., the mental hospital. A fundamental change wanted by politics collided with the self-image of the institution. Thus, an in-depth understanding of the context was necessary to succeed in reforming psychiatry, initiated by the Psychiatric Enquiry (1975) and further formulated in the Expert Commission Report (1988). The extent to which unresolved conflicts resulting from the institution’s euthanasia past has had an impact will require further investigation.

Keywords: Mental hospital Eichberg, dehospitalisation, longlasting continuities

Thomas Isermann and Horst Isermann

Neurology in Modern Epic: The Psychiatrist Alfred Döblin and his Literary Works

Alfred Döblin (1878–1957) is one of the leading novelists of the 20th century. His urban novel “Berlin Alexanderplatz”, written in 1929, has become world-famous. By profession, however, he was a psychiatrist. He received his doctorate in 1905 from Alfred E. Hoche on “Memory Disorders in the Korsakoff Psychosis”, wrote a total of 19 essays on medical subjects until 1919 and opened a practice in Berlin. In 1933 he went into exile with his family. While Alfred Döblin insists on separating the medical profession and poetry in his autobiographical writings, forms and themes of psychiatry and psychology are nonetheless incorporated into his literary works and into his statements about writing. In his early works, Döblin emphasizes the classical separation of science and the mind, writes on natural-philosophical speculations about their unity in his middle phase and within the context of his exile from Germany he increasingly focuses at first on Jewish and then Christian religiosity. The paradigm of medicine in his earlier works is replaced in his later works by the religious denomination: after taking on the medical-natural-philosophical perspective for the process of physiological writing, Döblin utilizes the religious authority as a new legitimation for writing. While scholarly literature mostly focuses either on medicine and psychiatry, or on religious-philosophical aspects, this paper, which has an introductory character, discusses the correlations between medicine and world-view in Alfred Döblin’s writings.

Keywords: Alfred Döblin, psychiatry, novels, medicine, religion, metropolis, doctor and writer
Figures in the history of psychiatry

Reinhard J. Boerner

Viktor Emil von Gebsattel (1883–1976) – facets of the complex life and work of an anthropological psychiatrist, philosopher und psychotherapist

Viktor Emil von Gebsattel is one of the founders of anthropological psychiatry and psychotherapy of the 20th century. His work is based on the profound and broad reception of philosophy, psychoanalysis and literature in synthesis with his psychiatric experience in the treatment of mental disorders. The work at hand traces Gebsattel’s unusually complex biography. In addition to characterizing his person and his relationships with prominent contemporaries such as e.g., Max Scheler, Lou Andreas-Salomé, Rainer Maria Rilke or Martin Heidegger his works will be highlighted.

Keywords: Viktor Emil von Gebsattel, anthropologic psychiatry, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, philosophy

Eberhard Gabriel

„As soon as Hoff arrived Kauders was quickly forgotten.“ Otto Kauders, Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology and Head of the Corresponding University Department in Vienna (1945–1949)

The dominant personality in the history of post-WWII psychiatry in Austria is Hans Hoff (1897–1969), professor and head of the university department of psychiatry and neurology in Vienna from 1950 until his death in 1969. However, his predecessor Otto Kauders, who held these positions from 1945 until his immediate and unexpected death in 1949, is almost forgotten. He should be remembered for his innovative program reconstructing institutional structures and for its early realization in spite of the very difficult general situation of the time. He should also be remembered for his quick re-introduction of international relations and promoting young collaborators, for his insight and understanding of the necessity to find a new orientation of psychiatry after the “barbarism” of National Socialism and of war, for naming and describing its pathological aftermaths in mental health of the population and for his calling for “psychohygienic psychotherapy” as a main therapeutic principle in psychiatry.

His structural and staff measures have had long-lasting influence. However, his early and unexpected death and an expansive follower prohibited him from remaining a leading figure in Viennese psychiatry.

Keywords: Otto Kauders, Hans Hoff, psychiatry in Vienna between the World Wars, psychiatry in Vienna after 1945, posttraumatic stress disorder

Norbert Andersch


In the late 1960s only a small minority of West German doctors rebelled against the mainstream conformity in psychiatry and psychopathology: against the dogma of Jasperian phenomenology and the narrow Freudian interpretation of symbols, against the denial of atrocities carried out against psychiatric patients during Fascism and against solitary treatment of patients. Among these non-conformists were Erich Wulff, Hanscarl Leuner, Alexander Mitscherlich and Alfred Lorenzer. Lorenzer earned his PhD and worked as a psychiatric specialist under Ernst Kretschmer at University of Tübingen. To him contemporary psychiatry was not able to live up to the demands and challenges of the post-war period. Disappointed he leaves his job and applies as a psychoanalyst at the Psychosomatic Clinic of A. Mitscherlich in
Marburg, who had been shunned by the medical establishment and was regarded an outsider. Lorenzer later cooperates with Mitscherlich at the Sigmund Freud Institute at the University of Frankfurt, and around the student revolts in 1968 he tries to bridge the gap between Marxism and psychoanalysis. Through his extensive research on therapeutic interaction he discovers the relevance of symbols. While focussing on Ernst Cassirer and Susanne Langer's philosophy of conscious symbol-formation, he critically reviews the narrow approach applied by Freudian symbolism. While a number of books he publishes were well reviewed within the academic and sociological discourse, his work is ignored in mainstream psychiatry and psychology. With a psychopathological discourse lost in classification systems and a phenomenologist mantra far from clinical practice, previously sidelined approaches in semiotics and symbolism – among them the research findings of Alfred Lorenzer – are attracting new attention.

Keywords: Alfred Lorenzer, Sigmund Freud, Ernst Cassirer, Psychopathology, Symbol Theory

Historical Aspects of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Bernd Holdorff

Richard Henneberg (1868-1962) and the „Funicular Myelosis”

Hardly any other person, like Richard Henneberg, has an insight into such a long time span of the Berlin neuropsychiatry based on his own experience. He started his clinical and neuropathological studies at the end of the 19th century under Friedrich Jolly and survived all the following Charité Heads of neuropsychiatry, and that under four different political regimes. His broad knowledge in neurology, psychiatry and neuropathology qualified him to be considered one of the last classical universalists. Since Carl Westphal’s description of the combined degeneration of the spinal cord in 1878/79 Henneberg’s contributions to this disease (1899-1926) remain unsurpassed, specifically the one on funicular myelitis in Lewandowsky’s Handbook of Neurology from 1911. Its etiology and pathogenesis with achylia gastrica and B12 avitaminosis were still unknown until the introduction of the liver therapy at the end of the 1920s, which brought the first breakthrough of a hitherto incurable disease. Because the lipid-laden cells in the demyelination areas did not represent morphological signs of an inflammation, Henneberg changed the designation of myelitis to funicular myelosis (1924), which remains associated to his name and is used in German-speaking countries. He represented an outstanding scientist who, after leaving the University Charité Hospital, continued to conduct research in neuropsychiatry and neuropathology and enriched the sessions of the Berlin Society of Neuropsychiatry [Berliner Gesellschaft für Psychiatrie und Neurologie] with his papers and discussions during the first decades of the 20th century.

Keywords: Richard Henneberg, funicular myelosis, subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord, Berlin Charité Hospital

Hans Michael Straßburg

Child Neurology in Germany between 1940 and the Foundation of the Neuropediatric Society (GNP) 1975

During the period of the National Socialist regime, chronic neurological diseases and disabilities of children and adolescents were of low interest. The only exceptions were diseases of inflammatory origin like meningitis or poliomyelitis. In the aftermath of the National Socialist regime and the horrible crimes against neuropsychiatrically sick and disabled human beings and with the exodus of nearly half of all pediatricians, the interest for diagnosing and treating these diseases grew rapidly. In the 1950s and 60s several journals published papers on neuropaediatrics in German, a journal was started and younger pediatricians increasingly were in contact with international colleagues. In 1951, for instance, a monography entitled „Organic and Functional Diseases of the Nervous System in Children“ was published by Hans Schlack for the first time and in 1968 a book by Gerhard Joppich and Franz Josef Schulte entitled „Neurology
of the Newborn”. In 1972, the senior physicians of the Epilepsy Clinic Kehl-Kork invited neuropediatric colleagues from Germany, Austria and Switzerland to a first joint workshop. On June 4, 1975, the "Society for Neupediatrics" (GNP) was founded in Heidelberg and its goals as well as the prerequisites for membership were laid down in a statute. Some months later, in November of the same year, the first annual conference took place in Heidelberg. The first conference president, Dieter Schefnner, defined neuropediatrics as an integral part of pediatrics as a link to the neurosciences and complementary to child and adolescent psychiatry.

Keywords: Child and Adolescent Neurology in Germany between 1940 and 1975, Gesellschaft fuer Neuropaediatrics (GNP), Foundation of the GNP

Ulrike Eisenberg

Karl Kleist’s Clinic for Mental and Nervous Diseases (1930–1933) and the Beginning of Operative Neurology in Frankfurt/Main: Alice Rosenstein (1898–1991) as the First Woman in Neurosurgery

In 1930 Karl Kleist opened his new Clinic for Nervous and Mental Diseases in Frankfurt. Kleist had planned several wards for psychiatry and neurology, a neuropathological laboratory, therapy departments, a department for radiology and an operation room. This operation theatre and the X-ray room were both inaugurated by Alice Rosenstein, one of Foerster's pupils. She performed not only simple X-rays, but also ventriculographies and other diagnostic interventions besides operating on some brain and spinal cord tumors. She thus worked independently of the University Surgical Hospital, which claimed to be the only neurosurgical clinic. In 1933, Alice Rosenstein was dismissed like many of her Jewish colleagues and emigrated to the United States. She was the first woman in the world to work as a neurosurgeon. After her emigration she started to work as a neurologist and neurosurgeon, but later opened a psychiatric practice.

Keywords: Karl Kleist, Clinic for Nervous and Mental Diseases, operation theatre, Alice Rosenstein, first female neurosurgeon

Detlef Ernst Rosenow, Michael Synowitz and Hans Joachim Synowitz

Review of the Puncture Technique of the Ganglion Stellatum with Novocaine – „Le couteau du chirurgien sans effusion de sang”

Leriche started his studies of the sympathetic nervous system during his time with M. Jaboulay in Lyon around 1900. In his inauguration lecture, given 1925 at the „hôpital civil” in Strasbourg, Leriche introduced his ideal of what he called „physiological surgery”. He also coined the term „the surgeon’s unbloody scalpel”, referring to the therapeutic effects of novocaine if locally administered at the stellar ganglion in the lower cervical region. He first administered novocaine in patients with angina pectoris. After this impressive demonstration of therapeutic action, i.e., the feasibility to exert some lytic action upon the sympathetic chain, this modality gained broad acceptance and a total of 90 indications in various medical fields were identified. In Germany a technique using the ventral orthograde and thus shortest possible approach to the stellar ganglion was introduced by Herget. This technique is still state-of-the-art, as it is by far less riskier than other approaches that were introduced. With skilled hands it is possible to administer it free-hand and even bedside. Other techniques were by far more cumbersome, as they used target gadgets to avoid adverse effects like pneumothorax, vessel lacerations and subarachnoid administration. To enhance its effect, potentially toxic co-agents such as phenole were also administered. Later, catheter techniques were used to where these catheters were
kept in place in order to have permanent access to the sympathetic chain at the C6 level. From the initial 90 indications, only a small number is still in clinical use, sympathetically maintained pain being the core-indication.

Keywords: stellar ganglion, novocaine, sympathicus, sympathetically maintained pain

Lara Rzesnitzek

From Leukotomy to Stereotaxy: Insights Into the Beginnings of Stereotactic Neurosurgery in West-Germany

Leucotomy was a form of therapy for schizophrenia, obsessions and compulsions, depression or severe chronic pain in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1946. In 1947 Spiegel and Wycis from Philadelphia University, USA, declared stereotactic thalamotomy as an alternative to leucotomy. As early as 1950, the Neurosurgery Department at the Freiburg University Psychiatric and Neurological Hospital started to adopt the method as a variation to leucotomy calling it “stepped leucotomy”. Scientific neuropathological insights into the anatomy of the thalamus and of the thalamocortical connections that had been strengthened by the leucotomy experience in this way were re-introduced into clinical practice. Selected medical files on the first patients operated on stereotactically in Freiburg will illustrate how this new experimental method found entrance into the therapeutic practice. The introduction of stereotaxy is analyzed as an example of clinical science in the field of psychiatry, neurology and neurosurgery in the early 1950s.

Keywords: psychosurgery, post-war psychiatry, history of neurosurgery, leucotomy, medical file

Michael Synowitz, Hans Joachim Synowitz and Detlef Ernst Rosenow

The Founding of the Association of Neurosurgeons in the GDR on June 25, 1962: Government Stipulation or Self-Initiative?

In 2001, on the 51st anniversary of its founding, the German Association for Neurosurgery [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurochirurgie (DGNC)] published its genealogy. Herein, the differences in the development of neurosurgery in West and East Germany after 1945 are well documented. Influenced by global politics of the early 1960s, East German neurosurgeons founded their independent national society in 1962 while simultaneously maintaining their membership in the West German neurological society. This curious situation was terminated per political decree in 1967 as East German neurosurgeons had to end their membership in the DGNC. However, open questions on the details of the foundation of the East German neurological society as well as on the coexistence of two German neurological societies between 1962 and 1967 remain. All original documents of that time which could provide insight into the circumstances surrounding the foundation of the East German society in 1962 were lost. Thus, the only documents that might help in tracing these circumstances have been taken from the archives. After the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, Georg Merrem – the only East German board member of the DGNC at that time and the only full professor holding a chair in neurosurgery in the GDR since 1959 – took the initiative to found an independent national society in 1962 in Leipzig.

Keywords: East German society of neurosurgery, German neurosurgeons, Georg Merrem, DGNC
Tricyclic Antidepressants: A "Quantum Leap" in Treating Depression

The history of the tricyclic antidepressants is tightly intertwined with the development of the tricyclic neuroleptics. The suitability of the phenothiazine compounds, among other things as antihistamines and anticholinergics, later also as neuroleptics, led the company Geigy in Basel to test derivatives of the chemically related iminodibenzyl structure with respect to their pharmacological potential. One of these compounds, G 22355, was also tested as an antipsychotic with little success. However, pronounced antidepressant properties were discovered. This substance was launched on the market under the generic name imipramine (Tofranil®) as the first tricyclic antidepressant. After phenothiazine (chlorpromazine) and thioxanthene (chlorprothixene) compounds had proven effective as antipsychotics and imipramine as an antidepressant, it appeared logical to test the chemically related dibenzocycloheptadiene compounds for their pharmacological potential. The first result marketed by several companies (at the beginning of the 1960s) was amitriptyline (as Elavil™, Laroxyl®, Saroten®, Tryptizol®), which went on to become the commercially most successful antidepressant internationally. Modification of the tricycle and/or the side chain of imipramine and amitriptyline yielded numerous further mood-brightening psychotropic drugs, thus revolutionising the somatic treatment of depressive disorders. Despite the introduction of more selectively acting substances (SSRIs, SNRIs) in the meantime, tricyclic antidepressants continue to be used today, and amitriptyline, doxepin and trimipramine have gained further clinical indications (pain, anxiety and sleep disorders).

Keywords: antidepressants, tricyclic, history, imipramine, amitriptyline

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Study on the Translation of Melancholia into Europe and the Role of Anton Bumm and Constantine the African

As director of the psychiatric clinic of Munich Ludwig Maximilian University, the German psychiatrist Anton Bumm was the forerunner of the well-known Emil Kraepelin. After a career typical for German psychiatrists, he was appointed in Munich in 1896, where he worked until his early death in 1903. He was responsible for the planning and construction of the later renown Munich psychiatric hospital, but died just prior to its completion. Bumm’s scientific interests extended to neuromorphology and pertinent experimentation, methods he picked up as a former coworker of Bernhard von Gudden in the same institution.

In addition, Anton Bumm was quite interested in the history of his medical discipline. He studied Hebrew or Arabic texts and among other things he translated a manuscript by Ishāq Ibn’Amrān, which is available in the Munich State Library, and was able to prove that the text is fully consistent with the two known volumes on melancholy attributed to the corpus constantinum compiled by the former African Constantine in Salerno.

The role of Konstantin as a translator has long been controversial because he does not name his sources and was therefore considered a plagiarist. Bumm’s findings seemed to confirm this, yet his analysis and translation involved only a part of Ishaq’s work. Thus, its relevance might be doubtful, notwithstanding the fact that a later comparison of both Ishaq’s and Constantine’s writings could prove extended literally concomitant parts.

Keywords: Melancholy, translation of arabic sources, Constantine the african, Munich psychiatry, Anton Bumm
Christian Klager

The Power of Normativity in Psychiatry

The paper deals with normativity in neurology. The text distinguishes between the norm in medicine as an indicator and as an ethically questionable catalyst. The inquiry focuses on the scientific knowledge of neurology and its effect on our reality.

Keywords: norms, normativity, indicator, catalyst, ethics

Hans Otto Dumke

Luther as Patient: A Reflection on Martin Luther's Illnesses

In addition to the events surrounding the Reformation, one should however also take the physical and presumed mental illnesses of the reformer into consideration. Luther has been depicted as someone of “powerful nature”, yet in reality he was a gravely ill patient in constant care. For example, he suffered from indigestion, gout, rheumatism, gall and kidney colic, vertigo and in the end also from attacks of angina pectoris. Supposedly he also suffered from mental illness at times. With the help of existing literature, this paper will describe his known as well as suspected illnesses based on his life story.

Keywords: Patient Luther, physical Illnesses, personality, presumed mental illnesses