

Abstracts

Historical Aspects of Psychiatry in Hamburg

Kai Sammet

An overview of Psychiatry in Hamburg Between 1800 and 1908

The article sketches the history of psychiatry in Hamburg from 1800 to 1908. Around 1800 no specialized hospital for mentally ill existed in Hamburg. When in 1823 the general hospital St. Georg was founded, mentally ill persons were cared for there. It was only in 1864 that a special hospital – Friedrichsberg – was established. In 1893 a second asylum – the so-called *Landwirtschaftliche Kolonie Langenhorn* was opened. Wilhelm Reye (1833–1912) was head of Friedrichsberg between 1866 and 1908, a time of complex changes for Hamburg. Apart from the history of the asylums Friedrichsberg and Langenhorn the paper will describe other places of care for people with mental disturbances such as e.g. the so-called *Werk- und Armenhaus* or privately run asylums.

Keywords: Psychiatry in Hamburg 1800 to 1908, Irrenanstalt Friedrichsberg, Agricultural Colony Langenhorn, forms of care for mentally ill in Hamburg, patients' history.

Kai Sammet

The Asylum Hamburg-Friedrichsberg Under the Directorship of Wilhelm Weygandt from 1908 to 1934

When in 1908 Wilhelm Weygandt (1870–1939) became head of the asylum Hamburg-Friedrichsberg, he modernized this hospital to become one of the greatest for mentally ill during *Kaiserreich* and Weimar Republic. He particularly established four scientific departments. The neuropathological laboratory (under Alfons Jakob [1883–1931]) explored the *hardware* of the psyche: brain tissue. The department for experimental psychology (Ernst Rittershaus [1881–1945]) tested mentally ill to understand the working of the psyche. The serological laboratory (Viktor Kafka [1881–1955]) examined blood and cerebrospinal fluid. Friedrich Meggendorfers (1880–1953) *Genealogical Department* explored the heredity of psychiatric diseases.

Psychiatry did not limit itself to laboratories, it permeated society. Hence in 1920 a department for so-called *Fürsorgezöglinge* or children in care was opened to control deviant young men. Moreover, one finds 'scientific' articles about so-called "*psychopathische Führer*" (psychopathic leaders) during the Revolution of 1918/19 or the establishing of networks of public influence as the *Forensisch-psychologische Gesellschaft*.

Keywords: Friedrichsberg and Wilhelm Weygandt 1908 to 1934, Scientific departments: neuropathology, serology, experimental psychology, heredity, Forensisch-psychologische Gesellschaft, Psychiatry and Revolution 1918/19, psychiatry and pedagogics of deviant young men.

Stefan Wulf

Between Bagdad and Friedrichsberg: The Governmental Physician Ludwig Külz, his Morphinism and his Detention in a Psychiatric Institution

In 1916 the German colonial physician Ludwig Külz, who worked in Togo and Cameroon many years until WWI, repeatedly fell seriously ill during military service on the Turkish-Persian front. Only with the aid of morphine did he survive a grueling relocation of troops to Bagdad. Because of drug dependence in 1919 and 1920 he was treated at the Hamburg State Hospital Friedrichsberg for a period of two months each. Külz's case points out two important historical aspects, namely the development of drug addiction in the context of WWI and the specific figure of the physician as a drug addict and psychiatric patient. In addition to the medical perspective on Külz as a Friedrichsberg patient, the paper focuses especially on his own perception and interpretation of his addiction as well as his internment in the asylum. The paper contributes to psychiatric patients' history and depicts Külz as a psychiatry-critical author. It also illuminates a period in the life of this physician thus far scarcely investigated.

Keywords: history of psychiatry, patients' history, morphinism, pantopono-cocainism, Ludwig Külz, State Hospital Friedrichsberg.

Therapy concepts in wide spectrum from doctrine of the soul and psychopharmaca

Thomas Isermann

From Melancholy to Serenity: Psychological Aspects in the Works of Jacob Boehme (1575–1624)

The philosophy of Jacob Boehme (1575–1624) represents a reflection of the biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation. His work of interpretation and his doctrine of salvation are derived from the Old and New Testament. Reading Jacob Boehme's works as integrated psychology helps us to approach the characteristics of a complex doctrine of the soul. Furthermore, it offers a concept of how mental problems – such as melancholy – can be healed. The origin and the healing of psychological disorders are historically derived from the panorama of the Christian plan of salvation. The acquisition of knowledge supported by visions and perceived as miraculous and socially enforced pursues to legitimize Boehme's spiritual leadership in respect of his contemporaries. Thus, he can widely criticize the institution church. Boehme's psychology formulates the redemption of the subjects paradoxically set in a relationship of required self-knowledge and attained self-negation, which should lead into states of "inspiration" or "serenity". A license to a critique of times and church is its historical outcome. This psychology of Jacob Boehme provides a new extensive perspective of the work of the Goerlitz philosopher because it sets moments of Boehme's philosophy which were previously perceived as disparate into a comprehensible system.

Keywords: psychology, melancholy, Jacob Boehme, self-knowledge, serenity.

Reinhard J. Boerner

The successful magnetic cure of „a rare case of perfect day blindness“ by Christoph Wilhelm Hufeland/Carl Alexander Ferdinand Kluge (1809) in the reception by Viktor Emil von Gebattel (1954)

Mesmer's „animal magnetism“ was discussed very controversially from the beginning. Amongst other things Hufeland changed due to the experience of a successful „magnetic cure“ of Julie Weber by Kluge from the decided critic to the advocate of this therapy method. Not least because of this, Berlin finally became the new center of Mesmerism. 150 years later Gebattel analyzed the patient's psychopathology. The main symptom of the „light-shyness“

he interpreted on the basis of anthropological hermeneutics as „inhibition of growth“. The unbroken valence of his approach to the understanding as well as the therapy of mental disorders amongst other things became clearly through the cross-link to Mesmer's therapy of Marie Theresia Paradis.

Keywords: Mesmer, Hufeland, v. Gebsattel, animal Magnetism.

Helmut Gröger

X-Ray and Malaria Therapy: On the Treatment of Weak-Mindedness in Children

Following a brief introduction of the protagonists of two therapeutic treatments of weak-mindedness in children, Wolfgang Wieser and Karl Kundratitz, and their original works, congress presentations and lectures, the focus will be on the two treatments' reception mainly in textbooks and manuals but also in individual original articles and lectures. The paper will concentrate on the German-speaking area, covering the Nazi period but also Switzerland. Reference will be made to methodological problems and the futility of any further development of both treatments.

Keywords: weak-mindedness in children, x-ray therapy, malaria therapy, Wolfgang Wieser, Karl Kundratitz.

Joachim Heinrich Demling

Old, but Indispensable: Clozapine, Tricyclic Pioneer of the "Atypical Antipsychotics"

The successful use of tricyclic drugs (phenothiazines, dibenzazepines, dibenzocycloheptadienes) in psychotic and depressive disorders prompted further manufacturers to test chemically related substances for their psychopharmacological potential. In 1958, the company Wander AG in Berne/Switzerland developed a synthesis programme for dibenzazepines, from which a range of antipsychotically active and mood-brightening substances emerged. Among the compounds that found their way onto the market, the most remarkable one was clozapine (trade name: Leponex®), which displayed advantages and special features with regard to both its efficacy and its side effect spectrum. In a long and eventful history, it became firmly established as part of the psychopharmacological arsenal throughout the world, a position that it has defended even against modern developments to this day, despite strict rules governing their use. The introduction of clozapine marked the beginning of the era of the second generation antipsychotic drugs ("atypical antipsychotics"), which signified a major advance in the improvement and humanisation of psychopharmacotherapy.

Keywords: clozapine, atypical antipsychotics, pharmacotherapy, schizophrenia, history.

Psychiatry and War

Marion Reich

A „Field Study“ from WWI by Ludwig Scholz: The Psychology of the Soldier at the Front

The neurologist Ludwig Scholz (1868–1918), who was fatally wounded in the final days of WWI, wrote a detailed study on the feelings and thoughts of the soldier in daily life at the front based on his diary entries and his function as Senior Battalion Doctor. This book, published posthumously in 1920, differs from similar texts in so far as it presents a medical doctor's unemotional and factual description of the individual in everyday war situations, without drifting into the glorification of comradeship and heroism prevalent in those times. Even today, in spite of the virtually unlimited

number of publications on the subject of the First World War, a similarly authentic text remains something rare to be found.

Keywords: Ludwig Scholz, WWI, military psychology.

Bernd Reichelt

„Evacuation“ to Death? The Fate of 148 Mentally Ill People from Hamburg in the Upper Swabian Asylums Zwiefalten and Schussenried from 1941 to 1949

On May 22, 1941, the Reichsbahn [German Railway Company] transported 148 patients from the Staatliche Versorgungshäuser [State Care Homes] of Hamburg to Upper Swabia, 800 kilometers to the south. 98 of them were admitted to the mental hospital Zwiefalten, 50 more were admitted to the asylum of Schussenried. The transport was justified with evacuation measures as a result of the British air raids on Hamburg. It was not until August 1949 that the 27 patients who were still alive returned to Northern Germany. On the one hand, this essay outlines the transport in the context of the Hamburg deportation policy during WWII. On the other it deals in particular with the patients' daily routine, in the context of decentralized and regionalized "Euthanasia".

Keywords: Euthanasia, WWII, asylum, psychiatry, National Socialism.

Bernd Reichelt and Thomas Müller

A Psychiatrist in a State of War: Hans Walther Gruhle (1880-1958) Experiences in Two World Wars

In 1933 the Heidelberg psychiatrist Hans Walther-Gruhle (1880-1958) looked back on a successful career as a psychiatrist at Heidelberg University's Psychiatric Clinic. However, further ambitions in that sense had been put to an end in 1934, because of his reservations about National Socialist health policy. In the following years he had at first been delegated to the Württemberg Ministry of the Interior, and then as medical director he headed the state-run mental hospitals of Zwiefalten (1936-1939) and Weissenau near Ravensburg (1940-1947). In Weissenau, however, his directorship became effective only in the post-war period, since from November 1939 until the end of the war he led a military hospital of the Wehrmacht at Winnenden, near Stuttgart. From May 1945 he was not only director in Weissenau, but also became an adviser to the French administration on the reorganization of psychiatric care in Württemberg. Gruhle's role in National Socialist psychiatry is subject of this research project focusing on the scope of action of the named institutions' medical staff. This chapter stresses Gruhle's personal experiences during two world wars: Besides Gruhle's being positioned in the services of a Wehrmacht hospital during WWII, he had gained some experience as an army surgeon on the Western Front in Northern France during WWI. Here, Gruhle's military file has been evaluated, in order to learn more about whether and potentially how his WW I experience shaped his behavior during World War II and thereafter.

Keywords: Military psychiatry, WWI, WWII, Hans Walther Gruhle, Heidelberg University, Württemberg Psychiatry.

Historical Aspects of Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis

Elena Taddei and Elisabeth Dietrich-Daum

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

The contribution deals with the issue of psychiatric care in rural areas in the second half of the 19th century. The "Historiae Morborum" (HM), the practice journals of the South Tyrolian general practitioner Franz von Ottenthal (1818–1899), who operated a private practice in Sand in Taufers (1847–1899), serve as the main source for the article. In his medical work – as a general practitioner with a private practice, as a substitute of the municipal physician of the same village and as an appointed forensic physician – Ottenthal regularly had to treat patients with psychological problems or psychiatric forms of illness, examine them as a medical counsellor in court proceedings on tutelage and, if applicable, refer them to the madhouse in Hall/Tirol or the psychiatric asylum in Pergine/Valsugana opened in 1882. These three areas of activity – treating, evaluating and referring – are at the centre of this contribution and will be outlined using selected examples. The contribution concludes with a description of Ottenthal's political advocacy for the foundation of a second psychiatric institution in Pergine/Valsugana in the southern part of the Crownland Tyrol as a delegate to the Tyrolian provincial parliament.

Keywords: Nineteenth Century Psychiatry, Psychiatric Asylums, Tutelage, Franz von Ottenthal, South Tyrol (Italy).

Kathleen Haack and Ekkehardt Kumbier

The „Michaelshof“ in Rostock-Gehlsdorf during the time of National Socialism: Between Educational Care and Psychiatric Practice

The National Socialist health and welfare policy had an enormous impact on the educational and welfare work of the Christian-run institutions in Mecklenburg. Using the example of the Michaelshof Rostock-Gehlsdorf, it will be demonstrated to what degree the change from pedagogical-Christian to pedagogical-National Socialist care took place under the selective view of psychiatry. The aim is to extend the still narrow view of medical institutions by the dimension of the "home" during the time of National Socialism. At the same time, a glance at the fate of individual pupils should be taken, albeit only to a limited extent due to the limited sources available in the archives.

Keywords: NS health policy, children's home, internal mission, children's "euthanasia", forced sterilization.

Michael Schröter

Changes in the Attitude of J. H. Schultz Towards Psychoanalysis up to 1932 (with an outlook on 1943)

Since 1909, when he published a comprehensive review of writings about psychoanalysis which was both well-informed and well-balanced, J. H. Schultz, arguably the most eloquent German psychotherapist in the first half of the 20th century, continued to write about psychoanalysis; he did so more often than any other German-speaking non-Freudian author of his time. Up to the beginning of the 1920s his view oscillated between criticizing Freud's "abstruse constructions" and acknowledging his "ingenious intuition", as witnessed particularly in Schultz' textbook *Die seelische Krankenbehandlung* (1919). Then, however, his tone became friendlier, probably due to his change into private neurological practice. Another step in approving psychoanalysis, leading also to a personal meeting with Freud, occurred in 1930. Its most marked reflection (which has gone unnoticed so far) is to be found in a revision of *Seelische Krankenbehandlung* for the 4th edition of 1930. Here, psychoanalysis is appreciated in a most intense and positive

way, which may have been unique outside the Freudian school. Schultz himself related this conversion to the didactic analysis he had undergone with Harald Schultz-Hencke. In the 5th edition of his book, published in 1943, Freud's achievements are both presented in a more aloof attitude and denounced as typically "Jewish".

Keywords: psychotherapy, reception of psychoanalysis, J. H. Schultz.

Eberhard Gabriel

„although [...] I may have the role of a movie star in other countries“: Hans Hoff (1897-1969), Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology in Vienna 1950-1969

Hans Hoff was offered to take over the direction of the Psychiatric and Neurological Department of the University of Vienna in 1950 after the unexpected death of Otto Kauders and agreed although he had reservations: mainly his predominant neurological research interests. He worked on his goal to reestablish the rank of the institution with great organizational energy and personal commitment. His style in directing the clinic was authoritarian but supporting at the same time. By necessity he had to give up his research interests and became a „propagandist“ of psychiatry. He suffered from this discrepancy and felt tired and unsatisfied and tried to overcome the problem with restless and dissipating activity. He paid for his great success as organisator and popular psychiatrist by giving up his real aim in life which would have been research. The paper supports that picture of Hoff's personality by quoting many sources not used up to now.

Keywords: Hans Hoff, University of Vienna/ Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, psychiatry in Vienna after 1945, continuity versus discontinuity.

Historical Aspects of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Bernd Holdorff

Paul Schuster's Important Studies on Forced Grasp and Re-Grasp Reaction (1923-1930)

Grasping reflex actions in cerebral lesions have been studied by neurologists already at the beginning of the 20th century, but certainly not so intensively as in Schuster's investigations. In the first study in three cases on forced grasp and re-grasp reaction, Schuster described these post-hemiplegic movement abnormalities (1923) with some common traits: partial right-sided hemiparesis; left-sided apraxia and eupraxia on the paretic side; forced fist closure on the right side, elicited by stroking the palm; forced grasp of the right hand for nearby objects and forced re-grasping, shortly after having lost the object. Schuster compared them with former descriptions of "Nachkontraktionsdauer" or "tonic perseveration". In the next papers of Schuster and co-workers (1926-1930), the authors concluded that the bilateral forced grasp reflex was induced by the lost inhibition on the ipsilateral motor cortex - by interruption of the occipito-frontal bundle and contralateral via the anterior corpus callosum. These findings represent still valuable clinicomorphological correlative rules that the palmar grasp reflex may be a sign of anterior cerebral artery syndrome in adults. Localisation studies with imaging techniques in the late 20th century showed slightly different results for the grasp reflex, other types of re-grasping, groping and magnet reaction („instinctive grasp reaction“) were bound to homolateral retro-rolandic lesions of the middle cerebral artery and dorsal hemispheric lesions and processes.

Keywords: Paul Schuster, grasp-reflex, forced grasping, forced groping, stroke of the anterior cerebral artery.

Hartmut Collmann

„Status dysraphicus“, a Long-Living Phantom: The Debate on the Etiology and Pathogenesis of Syringomyelia

The syringomyelia (SM), a spinal cord cavitation resulting from a variety of pathological conditions, is caused by an imbalance of the dynamic fluid exchange between extracellular space of the spinal cord and the adjacent subarachnoid space, ultimately resulting in an accumulation of extracellular fluid (spinal cord edema or “presyrinx”) and finally syrinx formation. Since the first detailed description in 1827, SM has been regarded as a disease sui generis, based on a defective neurulation, i.e. maldevelopment of the neural tube and central canal. Friedrich Wilhelm Bremer from Munich claimed that some individuals are genetically predisposed to develop SM, occult or even overt spinal dysraphism. He called this predisposition “status dysraphicus”. Although barely substantiated, his thesis was generally accepted and, during the Nazi regime, was used to justify forced sterilization. After the war, Bremer’s term survived for nearly 30 years and is used sometimes even today.

Keywords: syringomyelia, status dysraphicus, spinal cord malformation, genetics, forced sterilization.

Michael Synowitz, Detlef Ernst Rosenow and Hans Joachim Synowitz

The Burning Pain: A Review of the Concept of Causalgia

Two hundred years ago the English naval fleet officer and surgeon Alexander Denmark reported on a soldier who was suffering a lesion of the radial nerve, which he described as being of „burning nature“. Even the highest doses of opium could not alleviate the excruciating pain. Denmark compared this pain characteristic with the „tic douloureux“ in trigeminal neuralgia. Only decades later, during the civil war in the USA in the 1860s, the neurologists Silas Weit Mitchell and George R. Morehouse and the surgeon William W. Keen from Philadelphia examined the nerve injuries of 120 soldiers with pain characteristics similar to that reported by Denmark decades earlier. In 1864 the authors published their observations in a book entitled „Injuries of the Nerves“. In that publication, they also used the term „burning pain“. However, it was not until 1867 that the term „causalgia“ was introduced in the „United States Sanitary Commission Memoirs“ by the afore mentioned authors. According to Mitchell, it was Robley Dunglison who coined that medical neologism. Causalgia, as a clinical entity, is a syndrome, that, in a classic fashion, encompasses pain disorders like allodynia and hyperpathia as well as vasomotor disorders like edema, altered sweat secretion and reduced skin temperature. However, an exact pathomechanism of that disorder is still unknown to date. Many theories were established and many clinical names introduced in order to describe that obvious neurogenic disorder. As diffuse as the theories are, all of the therapeutic options underline the empirical character, although there are some clues that surgical intervention might alleviate that excruciating pain. The French surgeon René Leriche is credited of being the first to introduce operative action into the fuzzy therapeutic portfolio by performing sympathetic denervation. However, the re-naming of that clinical entity into „CRPS II“ in 1994 by the IASP has not contributed convincingly to a better understanding of that disease.

Keywords: Alexander Denmark, burning pain, causalgia, Mitchell, sympathectomy, CRPS.

Pioneers and protagonists

Ulrike Eisenberg

Edward Flatau (1868–1932) and his Contacts to Germany. For the 150th Birthday of one of the Most Important Founders of Polish Neurology

Edward Flatau, born in 1868 in Plock, Poland, studied medicine in Moscow. His early interest in neurosciences was influenced by Sergeevich Korsakov and Alexey Yakovlevich Koshevnikov. In 1893, Flatau moved to Berlin which at that time was the "Mecca" for young doctors from all over the world who were attracted by the interdisciplinary approach of specialists for neurology, internal medicine, and neuroanatomy in the emerging neurosciences. For several years, Flatau worked in the laboratories of the anatomist Wilhelm Waldeyer and the neurologist Emanuel Mendel, in the clinics for internal medicine under Alfred Goldscheider and Ernst Viktor von Leyden and under the neurologist Hermann Oppenheim. During this time, he became friends with young German colleagues, and some of those friendships culminated in a fruitful international cooperation. One example is the *Jahresbericht über die Leistungen und Fortschritte der Neurologie und Psychiatrie* (Annual Review of the Achievements and the Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry) which he founded in 1897 together with his teacher Emanuel Mendel and Mendel's pupil Louis Jacobsohn. For many years, he was one of the editors. At the turn of the century, Flatau published several works together with his German teachers and friends. After his time in Berlin, he was one of the most important founders of Polish neurology. This article not only presents the main topics of Flatau's research, but also his scientific network which developed during this time and continued for decades.

Keywords: Flatau, Berlin, interdisciplinary neurosciences, founder of Polish neurology.

Detlef Ernst Rosenow, Michael Synowitz and Hans Joachim Synowitz

Thierry Comte de Martel de Janville (1875–1940): Legal Nationalist, Anti-Semite, Revanchist, Inventor and Pioneer of French Neurosurgery

Thierry de Martel was born March 7, 1875 in Maxéville (Meurthe-et-Moselle). He finished A-levels in 1893, studied engineering at l'Ecole Centrale Mathematics between 1897 and 1899 and continued studying medicine between 1899 and 1907 at the Medical Faculty in Paris. As an intern at the Salpêtrière as of 1903, his interest in the pathology of the nervous system was aroused by the neurologist Souques. In 1911, Babinski was introduced to Martel by his pupil Clovis Vincent and became the neurosurgical mentor of Martel. Martel had operated on a patient with a tumor in the spinal canal which was transferred to him by Babinski with great success. A previous patient with a similar pathology was rather unsuccessfully operated on by the renowned surgeon Paul Lecène. To perfect his neurosurgical skills, until he was drafted in August 1914 in WWI, he flew to London on a weekly basis in order to watch Horsley operate. By 1914 Martel was nicknamed „the d'Artagne of surgery" due to his surgical skills. In 1917 he became head of surgery at the American Hospital in Paris. Martel invented a number of surgical instruments such as the Martel-trephine with modern modifications (Umbach- and Codman-trephine) and metal guidance for the safe introduction of Gigli's saw under the tabula interna, which are the most important instruments still in use in neurosurgical practice. Politically, Martel was a right-wing nationalist and an adherent of antisemitic and revanchistic ideas, supporting the ideas of the „non-conformistes" in Paris of the 1930s „des années trente" (the Nineteenthirties). Martel committed suicide on June 14 in 1940, the day the German Wehrmacht occupied Paris.

Keywords: Thierry de Martel, Babinski, l'action française, American Hospital, Martel-trephine, Gigli Saw.

Thomas Müller and Uta Kanis-Seyfried

Against all odds: A peasant's son from Baden, Germany, becoming a pioneer in brain research

Introducing into the life and underprivileged family background of Korbinian Brodmann (1868-1918), this contribution reflects the life and work of this early-20th century German scientist. His medical training at German universities Munich, Wuerzburg, Berlin and Freiburg as well as his further education provided the framework for an outstanding scientific career until the beginning of World War I. His Tübingen professorship and his being nominated to manage a major department of Emil Kraepelin's Munich research unit of psychiatry represent the climax of a promising but all too short career, being harshly interrupted by an early and unexpected death.

Keywords: Korbinian Brodmann, Brodmann family, brain research, neuroanatomy, Brodmann Museum.

Christian Prüter-Schwarte

Gustav Aschaffenburg and the Issue of Diminished Responsibility

The debate on diminished responsibility is very old; within psychiatry the dilemma was that to an ambiguous concept between illness and health one could not respond with a polarization of insanity and sanity. Despite being known in the criminal laws of individual states, the term of diminished responsibility was not included in § 51 of the criminal law passed in 1871 in the German Reich (RStGB). In the discussion on a reform of the criminal law at the beginning of the 20th century, Gustav Aschaffenburg, professor of psychiatry in Cologne, played a prominent role among the advocates of introducing the notion of diminished responsibility into the new RStGB. His intensive scientific and journalistic commitment to this topic and to the question of introducing measures for the prevention of crime and reformation of offenders contributed significantly to the fact that in 1933 both the term of diminished responsibility and the measures were incorporated in the criminal law still in force today. This article is intended to highlight Aschaffenburg's bearing on the reform of the criminal law and the development of forensic psychiatry in Germany.

Keywords: Aschaffenburg, reform of the criminal law, diminished responsibility, forensic psychiatry, 20th century.

Knowledge transfer

Stephan Jaster

The life of the Russian poet Konstantin Batjuschkow and his psychiatric doctor Anton Dietrich

The Russian poet Konstantin Batjuschkow will be cured because of his mental disease from 1824 until 1828 in the Saxon Sanatorium Pirna-Sonnenstein. After the disease was considered to be incurable, he traveled to Moscow with his doctor Anton Richter, who treated him there until 1830 and then returned to Pirna. Richter will be the successor of the first director of the clinic Ernst Gottlob Pienitz in 1853 and edited the first collection of Russian fairy tales, which is still available today. Through the progressive treatment of patients by not using restraint, the clinic Pirna-Sonnenstein became a model hospital for psychiatry in Russia, but also in other countries.

Keywords: Batjuschkow, Anton Richter, Pirna-Sonnenstein, collection of fairy tales.

Jürg Kesselring

One Hundred Years Swiss Archive for Neurology and Psychiatry: A Treasure Trove of German-Speaking Neurology

The Swiss Archive of Neurology and Psychiatry was founded in 1917 by Constantin von Monakov (1853–1930), the first professor of neurology at the University of Zurich and founder of the Swiss Neurological Society. The carefully bound booklets of these Archives can be found in their entirety in the scientific library of the Psychiatric University Hospital Burghölzli in Zürich. It is hoped that this treasure trove of knowledge will be preserved for all those interested in the history of neurology and psychiatry in its integrity. Today's work in and on this archive allows time and again to bring out older works and to present them in the light of more modern concepts. Of medical-historical interest is also the category of obituaries, occurring in almost all issues – virtually a "Who's Who" of neurologists and psychiatrists who have laid the foundations for our subjects.

Keywords: Swiss Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry, History of Neurology and Psychiatry.

Peter Theiss-Abendroth

International Influences on the Development of Brazilian Psychiatry in the 20th Century

Starting from four turning points in the history of Brazilian psychiatry, this study examines how the national discourse adopted foreign influences. The first two examples originate from the period before WWII and depict how knowledge was transferred from the German-speaking countries of Central Europe. The other two examples from the 1970s describe corrective interventions of foreign scholars when faced with grave violations of professional ethics in Brazil. Seemingly a narrative of pro- and anti-modern movements over time unfolds; yet this view invites to be challenged.

Keywords: Brazilian psychiatry, Juliano Moreira, transfer of knowledge, military dictatorship, modernization.

Crossing the Boundaries

Tobias Wustmann, Tim J. Krause, Nils M. Krause, Dan Rujescu and Frank Pillmann

The Reception History of the Mental Illness of Georg Cantor

In the early 20th century, the eminent mathematician Georg Cantor (1845–1918) was repeatedly treated for several months in the former Department of Neurology and Psychosis of the University of Halle. Here he also died as part of an inpatient stay at the age of 72. His illness, which according to today's terminology is most likely to be classified as bipolar schizoaffective disorder, has repeatedly been the subject of pathobiographic analyses. On the basis of medical records and other biographical sources, an overview of Cantor's mental illness is given. Different assumptions about the connection between the mental illness and his mathematical achievements and his literary work are critically appreciated.

Keywords: Georg Cantor, mania, psychosis, bipolar disorder, pathobiography.

Christina Vanja

The Sanatorium for Mentally Ill in Detective Stories of Agatha Christie

The reputation of psychiatry is influenced in the general public in a particularly sustainable way by popular representations, which not infrequently reinforce existing fears of clinical treatment rather than elucidating possible therapies. Agatha Christie, "Queen of Crime," was one of the most widely-read English language authors during her lifetime. As an analysis of her detective stories shows, she did not use the usual stereotypes. The article presents seven detective novels in which, despite critical remarks by the author, a positive overall picture of the psychiatric clinics in Great Britain is drawn.

Keywords: Sanatoriums, Psychiatry, Detective Novels, Agatha Christie, Great Britain.

Martina Rabensteiner

Thalidomide. Its effects in Austria

The history of the drug thalidomide, better known under its brand name Contergan, is one of the most momentous incidents of the drug application of the 20th century. As a sedative and tranquilizer, it was sold by the German pharmaceutical company Chemie Grünenthal GmbH in Stolberg near Aachen as an over-the-counter-drug between October 1957 and November 1961. Because of its popularity and "harmlessness", it was also prescribed to pregnant women for their morning sickness. Unfortunately, it caused nerve damages (polyneuritis) in adults and malformations in thousands of children worldwide.

Its distribution went beyond the borders of the Federal Republic of Germany, and it also left its marks in Austria. As Softenon it was only available on prescription. For a long time the victims were forgotten as nobody linked it to Contergan or thalidomide due to its different brand name. It was not until after the film, "Contergan – A single pill" that in 2007 the self-help group of Contergan- and thalidomide victims in Austria was founded and the awareness of this unknown past of thalidomide was increased in the public. The victims fought for more acceptance and an adequate compensation and recognition from the Austrian state. The amendment of the so called "Conterganstiftungsgesetz" in 2009 was opportune for their efforts. At that moment, under pressure from those affected, an elucidation by the Austrian state had to be pursued. In addition to a single payment, other demands of the group were enforced in the National Council.

Keywords: thalidomide, Softenon, on prescription, self-help group of Contergan- and thalidomide victims in Austria, compensation.