

Handbook of Clinical Neurology, Vol. 95 (3rd series)
History of Neurology
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Chapter 33

The history of movement disorders

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THE BASAL GANGLIA AND DISORDERS OF MOVEMENT

Distinction between cortex, white matter, and subcortical nuclei

The distinction between cortex, white matter, and subcortical nuclei was appreciated by Andreas Vesalius (1514–1564) and Francisco Piccolomini (1520–1604) in the 16th century (Vesalius, 1542; Piccolomini, 1630; Goetz et al., 2001a), and a century later British physician Thomas Willis (1621–1675) implicated the corpus striatum in motor function: “When I opened a number of cadavers of patients who had died from a long paralysis . . . I always found the striate bodies more softened than any other part; also discolored like the dregs in an olive press, and the striae much obliterated” (Willis, 1664, as cited in Schiller, 1967, p. 526). Later Willis elaborated: “[When] the Animal Spirits . . . direct themselves thence into the Corpora Striata, and origins of the Nerves, they actuate all the moving parts, and as often as there is occasion, convey to them the Instincts of setting upon motions” (Willis, 1685, p. 413).

Au1

Willis’ concept that the corpus striatum is the seat of motor power was pre-eminent for approximately 200 years, and this misconception later formed the basis of mid-19th-century localizations of several movement disorders to the striatum. Thus, for example, striatal dysfunction was implicated in chorea by British physician William Broadbent (1835–1907) (Broadbent, 1869) and British neurologist John Hughlings Jackson (1835–1911) (Jackson, 1868/1932/1996, p. 238), and in athetosis by American neurologist William Hammond (1828–1900) (Hammond, 1871)—localizations that would prove essentially correct, though somewhat serendipitously. It was only with electrophysiologic stimulation studies by German physiologists Gustav Fritsch (1838–1927) and

Eduard Hitzig (1838–1907) on the cerebral cortex of dogs (Fritsch and Hitzig, 1870/1960), British physiologist David Ferrier’s (1843–1928) stimulation and ablation experiments on rabbits, cats, dogs and primates begun in 1873 (Ferrier, 1876), and Jackson’s careful clinical and clinical-pathologic studies in people (late 1860s and early 1870s) that the role of the motor cortex was appreciated, so that by 1876 Jackson could consider the “motor centers in Hitzig and Ferrier’s region . . . higher in degree of evolution than the corpus striatum” (Jackson, 1876/1932/1996, vol. 1, pp. 150–151).

By the late 19th century a number of movement disorders were fairly well described clinically, including several forms of tremor, Parkinson’s disease, Sydenham’s chorea, Huntington’s chorea, post-hemiplegic choreoathetosis, several forms of dystonia (including writer’s cramp, torticollis, and dystonia musculorum deformans), and Gilles de la Tourette’s syndrome. These disorders were puzzling, though, because in most cases pathologic studies had yet to identify a clear pathologic correlate of the clinical disease.

In 1888, in his classic text, *A Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System*, British neurologist William Gowers (1845–1915) was not sure how to classify such movement disorders and lumped them under “general and functional diseases of the nervous system,” noting that in general there were

no constant changes to be seen [in the brain] with the naked eye . . . but microscopical changes have been discovered in some of them with sufficient frequency to make it certain that there is far more than a mere disturbance of function, and it cannot be doubted that most of these maladies depend upon alteration in the nutrition of the nerve-elements, although these may not yet have been

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found, and perhaps cannot be detected without more means of investigation that we at present possess. (Gowers, 1888, p. 547)

Seventy years later, Canadian neurologist Andre Barbeau (1931–1986) noted progress and offered hope, but was frustrated with the limited understanding of etiology and pathophysiology as well as the inadequacies of available treatments for movement disorders:

But what of the results? Many are improved that a few years ago would have been miserable, many are permitted a more active life and are forever grateful...but none are cured! The cause and exact pathology of the various diseases grouped under the extra pyramidal system remain mysteries almost as deep as in the days of Sydenham and Parkinson. Many clinical varieties have been observed, many pathological studies carried out, but the suffering humanity still goes on twisting, shaking, writhing, jumping and jerking when it does not want to. (Barbeau, 1958, pp. 486–487)

Models of basal ganglia function

Dramatic and rapid progress is now being made in understanding how the basal ganglia function to influence movement; how various structural, neurochemical, and other derangements of basal ganglia circuits produce different movement disorders; and how pharmacological and surgical treatments act to correct or improve some of the features of movement disorders. In particular, since the late 1980s a series of increasingly sophisticated conceptual models of basal ganglia function (e.g., Alexander and DeLong, 1986; Albin et al., 1989b; DeLong, 1990; Bergman et al., 1990; Wichmann and DeLong, 1998; Mink, 2003), supported and guided by experiments with animal models of disease and by clinical experience with human patients (e.g., Smith and Parent, 1988; Albin et al., 1989a; Bergman et al., 1990, 1994), have provided sufficient insight into disease mechanisms to guide the development of novel pharmacological and surgical therapies, particularly pallidotomy and deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease, but also somewhat for other forms of movement disorders. They have also served to guide research efforts with animal models or with human subjects (with sophisticated neuroimaging or during surgery) that have helped to elaborate or correct portions of these models.

These models of basal ganglia function initially focused particularly on the balance of firing rates (rather than temporal or spatial pattern of firing) in various basal ganglia nuclei or projection systems. By 1990, the motor portion of the basal ganglia-thalamocortical circuits was

felt to represent “a re-entrant pathway through which influences emanating from specific areas of cortex are returned to certain of those same areas after intermediate processing within the basal ganglia and thalamus” (DeLong, 1990, p. 281). Cortical and nigral projections (i.e., input) to the basal ganglia motor circuit terminate primarily in the putamen, whereas motor output from the basal ganglia is directed primarily from the internal segment of the globus pallidus to the thalamus (ventral tier and mediodorsal nuclei) and to the substantia nigra pars reticulata in the brainstem. Within the basal ganglia are two important projection systems: a “direct pathway” from the putamen directly to the motor portions of the internal segment of the globus pallidus and the pars reticulata of the substantia nigra; and an “indirect pathway” passing from the putamen through intermediate nuclei (i.e., sequentially the external segment of the globus pallidus and then the subthalamic nucleus) before being directed to the basal ganglia output nuclei (i.e., the internal segment of the globus pallidus).

DeLong (1990, p. 281) and others proposed that “the direct pathway effectively provides positive feedback to the precentral motor fields... [whereas] activity conducted along the indirect pathway appears to provide negative feedback to the precentral motor fields... Thus, in general it appears that enhanced conduction through the indirect pathway leads to hypokinesia (by increasing pallidothalamic inhibition), whereas reduced conduction through the direct pathway results in hyperkinesias (by reduction of pallidothalamic inhibition).” In a later synthesis, Wichman and DeLong (1998, p. 225) concluded that “In general, hypokinetic disorders such as Parkinson's disease are associated with increased basal ganglia output, whereas hyperkinetic movement disorders such as Huntington's disease are associated with decreased output.”

While helpful, even the modelers themselves soon recognized that “these models are only a first draft of basal ganglia function under normal and diseased conditions” (Wichman and DeLong, 1998, p. 232), with significant residual discrepancies and inadequacies that await resolution (Wichman and DeLong, 1998; Obeso et al., 2000). For example, these models essentially considered all hyperkinetic movement disorders to result from a reduction of inhibitory basal ganglia output, particularly to the thalamus, and as such were unable to adequately explain how different forms of hyperkinetic movements occur (Mink, 2003). These models also left many other observations unexplained, including the lack of dyskinesias after pallidotomy, lack of parkinsonism after thalamotomy, failure of lesions of the external segment of the globus pallidus to abolish drug-induced dyskinesias (Wichman and DeLong, 1998), and failure to explain why different

clinical features of movements disorders (e.g., tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, gait dysfunction, and postural instability in Parkinson's disease) present to different degrees in some patients or respond differently to pharmacological or surgical procedures (Obeso et al., 2000). More complex models that address some of the earlier model deficiencies have subsequently been proposed (Mink, 2003), but remain largely untested and have had limited application to treatment.

TREMOR

Distinction of rest and action tremors

In the second century, Galen (c. 130–200 AD) used the term *tremor* to refer to “involuntary alternating up-and-down motion of the limbs,” occurring during action and resulting from partial “weakness of the force that supports and moves the body” (Sider and McVaugh, 1979; Koehler and Keyser, 1997). Galen distinguished tremor from *palpitation*, an “unnatural expansion and collapse” occurring at rest (Sider and McVaugh, 1979; Koehler and Keyser, 1997). Later, in the 17th and 18th centuries, Franciscus de la Boë (Sylvius; 1614–1672), Gerard van Sweiten (1700–1772), and others further distinguished involuntary movements during action and at rest (de la Boë, 1663; Molina-Negro and Hardy, 1975; Koehler and Keyser, 1997).

British physician James Parkinson (1755–1824) provided the first clear clinical description of a specific rest tremor in his treatise on the “shaking palsy” in 1817 (Parkinson, 1817). His report received some, albeit limited, recognition (Schiller, 1986; Keppel Hesselink, 1996; Louis, 1997) until later in the 19th century, when French neurologist Jean Martin Charcot (1825–1893) labeled the condition “Parkinson's disease”, and distinguished the tremor of Parkinson's disease from the kinetic “intentional” (intention) tremor seen in multiple sclerosis (Charcot and Vulpian, 1861; Charcot, 1877b, 1887/1987, 1889; Goetz, 1986; Schiller, 1986; Goetz et al., 1995, 2001b, 2001f; Keppel Hesselink, 1996; Lanska, 2000b). Charcot noted that in patients with multiple sclerosis tremor is not present at rest, but only with activity, and that the tremor amplitude increases with effort. In contrast, the tremor of Parkinson's disease is present both at rest and during activity, and the amplitude does not increase with action (Fig. 33.1).

The characteristics of different rest and action tremors were more fully elaborated in the late-19th and 20th centuries by a number of authors using more sophisticated recording devices and other technologies (Fig. 33.2) (Lanska, 2000b). Although overlapping tremor frequencies for different types of tremor precluded tremor recording devices from becoming a definitive

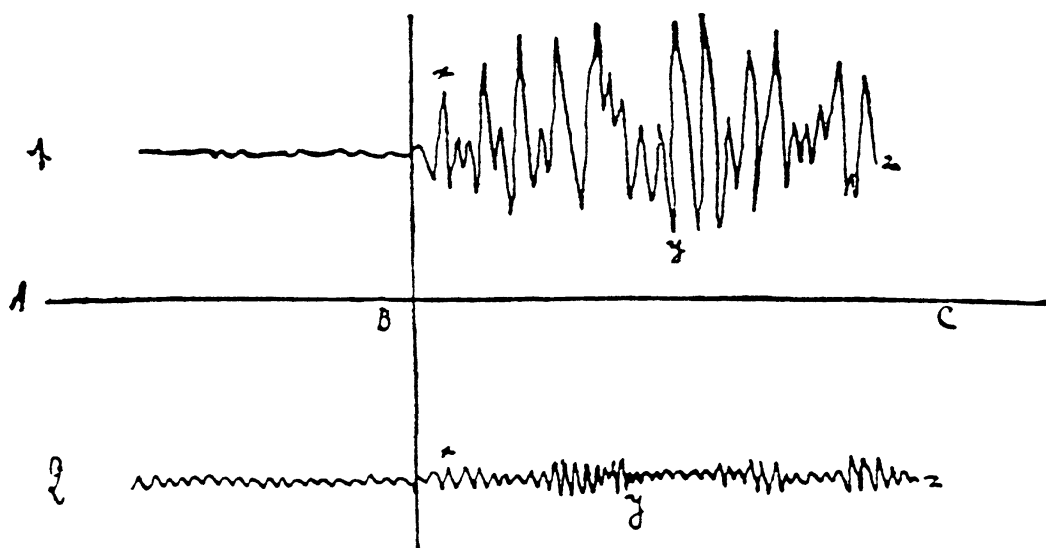


Fig. 33.1. Charcot's semi-diagrammatic graphic representations of tremor based on tracings (Charcot, 1887, 1889): “No. 1 [top curve] represents the intentional tremor of disseminated sclerosis (i.e., multiple sclerosis). The line AB indicates the state of repose. The point B represents the moment of commencing the voluntary movement; BC represents the duration of the movement, and the trembling is represented by the wavy line xyz, of which each oscillation is larger the farther we get from B . . . No. 2 in the figure represents the tremors of paralysis agitans (i.e., Parkinson's disease). You see at once on looking at this diagram how the two tracings differ in the portion BC. The segment under the line AB represents the time of repose. It is cut up by little waves corresponding to the continuous trembling. At point B voluntary movement commences. From this point the components of the wavy line xyz are a little longer and more irregular than in the period of repose, but they are never so much so as in disseminated sclerosis” (Charcot, 1889). Charcot's graphical recording method, upon which this diagram was based, is not described, but in other circumstances he relied on various pneumatic tambour-like mechanisms (Charcot, 1877a, 1889).

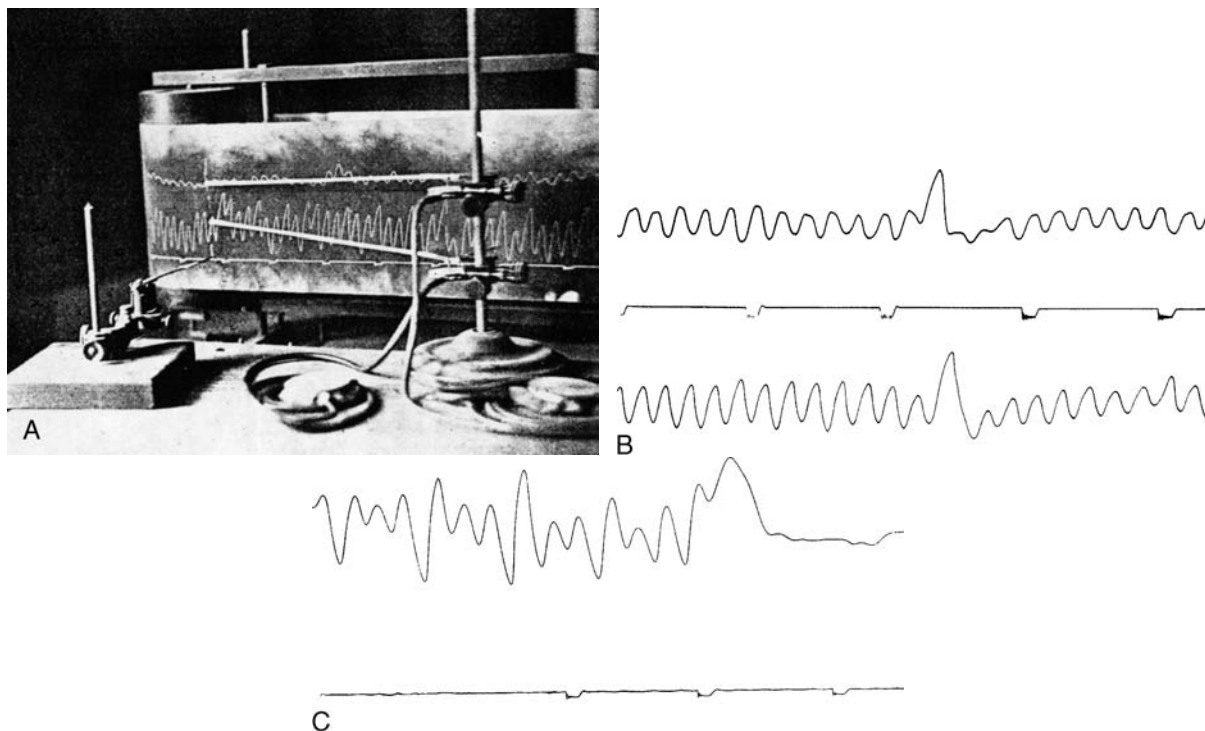


Fig. 33.2. American physician Augustus Eshner used a tambour recording apparatus for some studies, including those requiring “simultaneous observations of the two sides of the body or of two or more different parts” (A) (Eschner, 1897). For example (B), the use of two tambours allowed simultaneous recording from both hands in a patient with Parkinson’s disease (upper curve is the left hand, lower curve is the right hand, and middle line marks time in seconds); the tracings demonstrate a synchronous tremor in the two hands at about 5.5 hertz. Eschner was also able to demonstrate (C) suppression of a rest tremor with action (i.e., finger extension) in a patient with Parkinson’s disease (left portion of the tracing shows a tremor at rest and the far right portion without tremor is during action). Prior to action, the tremor had a frequency of approximately 4.7 hertz. The tracings in B and C are the negatives of the originals made on smoked paper.

Au87

diagnostic tool, graphical recordings did allow 19th-century investigators to demonstrate: (1) tremor frequency varies as a function of weight and elastic properties in different body parts; (2) tremor amplitude and frequency are inversely related; and (3) the tremor of Parkinson’s disease is a relatively low frequency rest tremor, suppressed by action, and generally synchronous in symmetric body parts, but varying in amplitude and frequency over time (Eschner, 1897; Lanska, 2000b; Lanska et al., 2001a). (Fig. 33.2)

Au2

Physiologic tremor

As early as 1610, Italian physicist and astronomer Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) recognized that cardiobalistic and respiratory movements contributed to the shaking of the magnified image in a hand-held telescope: “. . . the instrument must be held firm, and hence it is good, to escape the shaking of the hand that arises from motion in the arteries and from breathing, to fix the tube in some stable place . . .” (Galilei, 1610/1978, p. 147). In 1897, American

physician Augustus Eschner (1862–1949) offered several ways of demonstrating physiologic tremor in healthy individuals, including holding a glass of water and viewing the surface, or using a mechanical recording apparatus. Eschner (1897, p. 306) noted that: “[Small amplitude physiologic tremors should be expected] . . . as every muscular movement is made up of a series of alternate contractions and relaxations, occurring ordinarily with such frequency as to escape detection with the unaided eye.” Eschner considered uneven integration of individual muscle twitches to be the basis of physiologic tremor, but he ignored other possible components, including rhythmic bursts of discharges from central generators, oscillatory feedback systems, resonant properties of the moving parts, postural adjustments, and cardiobalistic and respiratory movements (Lanska, 2000b).

Au3

Essential tremor

In the late-19th century, physicians began to recognize familial forms of postural action tremors. In 1887,

American neurologist Charles Dana (1852–1935) described a familial postural tremor:

The affection in question consists of a fine tremor, constantly present in typical cases during waking hours, voluntarily controlled for a brief time, affecting nearly all the voluntary muscles, chronic, beginning at very early life, not progressive, not shortening life, not accompanied with paralysis or any other disturbances of nervous function . . . It begins in infancy or childhood, sometimes being brought out by an infectious fever . . . The upper extremities are most noticeably affected, but it may involve the head, neck, eye, laryngeal, or, in fine, any of the voluntary muscles. It ceases during sleep, and can be inhibited temporarily by the will. Everything that produces excitement or nervousness increases the tremor. It may be barely noticeable, except under some excitement, or the influence of alcohol or tobacco. It does not interfere with delicate coordination. It neither stops nor increases on ordinary voluntary movements. (Dana, 1887, pp. 386–387, 392)

Although Dana's description of familial tremor has generally been accepted as an early description of hereditary essential tremor, the condition (1) reportedly increased under the influence of alcohol; (2) did not interfere with fine manual tasks; and (3) was not likely hereditary given the large reported pedigree, with almost all individuals affected (e.g., with 41 of 42 individuals in two successive generations affected, and with the sole exception an obligate carrier under an autosomal dominant mode of hereditary transmission) (Lanska, 2002).

There was considerable interest in hereditary neurologic disorders in the late-19th century, especially following Friedreich's (1863) work on hereditary ataxia, and Huntington's (1872) report of hereditary chorea. Yet there was no understanding at this time of Mendelian genetics, and most investigators considered any familial disorder as "hereditary." Hereditary conditions were not understood in anything resembling the modern sense until Mendel's laws were simultaneously rediscovered and made known by DeVries, Correns, and Tschermak von Seyenegg in 1900 (Mendel, 1865; Correns, 1900; De Vries, 1900; Tschermak von Seyenegg, 1900).

Multigenerational familial tremors having characteristics of autosomal dominant transmission were recognized in the early-20th century (e.g., Mitchell, 1903; Critchley, 1949), but clear recognition of autosomal dominant transmission of essential tremor did not occur until the middle of the 20th century (Critchley, 1949; Davis and Kunkle, 1951; Jager and King, 1955;

Larsson and Sjögren, 1960). Since the late 1990s, essential tremor loci have been identified on several chromosomes: 3q13 (familial essential tremor 1), 2p24.1 (familial essential tremor 2), and 6p23. However, some pedigrees consistent with autosomal dominant essential tremor have excluded known genetic loci as a cause, supporting genetic heterogeneity (Ma et al., 2006). Twin studies and segregation analysis have further suggested that essential tremor may require interaction of environmental and genetic factors (Louis et al., 2001; Ma et al., 2006).

[Au4](#)

British neurologist MacDonald Critchley (1900–1997) noted that "Some patients find that a heavy dose of spirits will temporarily check the tremor and this factor has appeared only too often to have served as an excuse for habits of intemperance" (Critchley, 1949, pp. 117–118). Davis and Kunkle (1951, p. 815) similarly reported, "Treatment with Phenobarbital apparently offers some symptomatic benefit, but this may be largely nonspecific, i.e., without altering the basic mechanism of the tremor. Although alcohol has been found beneficial by some patients, its prescribed use is unwarranted, for this may lead to excessive drinking."

Beneficial effects of propranolol were documented in the 1970s (Dupont et al., 1973; Winkler and Young, 1974) and the utility of primidone was documented in the 1980s (O'Brien et al., 1981; Findley et al., 1985). These two medications remain the best available drugs (Zesiewicz et al., 2005), but surgery is increasingly recognized as efficacious for tremor refractory to drug therapy (Hassler and Reichert, 1954). Thalamotomy is associated with significant potential complications, particularly if performed bilaterally (Goldman et al., 1992; Shahzadi et al., 1994; Jancovic et al., 1995), so thalamic stimulation has been increasingly used (Limousin et al., 1999; Pahwa et al., 1999; Schuurman et al., 2000).

[Au5](#)

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Parkinson's disease is of fundamental importance to the history of movement disorders, because of its common occurrence, the dramatic progress that has been made in understanding and treating the condition, and the insights this progress has provided for understanding the anatomy and function of the basal ganglia.

Clinical description

The first clear clinical description of Parkinson's disease was the monograph titled *An Essay on the Shaking Palsy* by British general practitioner James Parkinson in 1817 (Parkinson, 1817). Parkinson gave a short account of six subjects, some of whom he had never examined, but only saw on the neighborhood

streets or when making his medical rounds. He noted the tremulous involuntary shaking at rest, the asymmetric onset, the slowed movements, the flexed posture, and the festinating gait:

Involuntary tremulous motion, with lessened muscular power, in parts not in action and even when supported; with a propensity to bend the trunk forward, and to pass from a walking to a running pace: the senses and intellects being unimpaired . . . The first symptoms perceived are, a slight sense of weakness, with a proneness to trembling in some particular part; sometimes in the head, but most commonly in one of the hands and arms . . . [As] the malady proceeds . . . [the] propensity to lean forward becomes invincible, and the patient is thereby forced to step on the toes and fore part of the feet, whilst the upper part of the body is thrown so far forward as to render it difficult to avoid falling on the face. In some cases, when this state of the malady is attained, the patient . . . [is] irresistibly impelled to take much quicker and shorter steps, and thereby to adopt unwillingly a running pace . . . The power of conveying the food to the mouth is at length so much impeded that he is obliged to consent to be fed by others . . . As the disease proceeds towards its last stage, the trunk is almost permanently bowed, the muscular power is more decidedly diminished, and the tremulous agitation becomes violent. The patient walks now with great difficulty, and unable any longer to support himself with his stick, he dares not venture on this exercise, unless assisted by an attendant . . . His words are now scarcely intelligible; and he is not only no longer able to feed himself, . . . the food is with difficulty retained in the mouth until masticated; and then as difficultly swallowed. Now also . . . another very unpleasant circumstance occurs: the saliva fails of being directed to the back part of the fauces, and hence is continually draining from the mouth . . . As the debility increases and the influence of the will over the muscles fades away, the tremulous agitation becomes more vehement . . . The chin is almost immoveably bent down upon the sternum. The slops with which he is attempted to be fed, with the saliva, are continually trickling from the mouth. The power of articulation is lost . . . [At] the last, constant sleepiness, with slight delirium, and other marks of extreme exhaustion, announce the wished-for release. (Parkinson, 1817, pp. 1–9)

In his classroom lectures at the Salpêtrière over 50 years later, Jean-Martin Charcot lauded Parkinson's

clear and succinct clinical descriptions and suggested the eponym of "Parkinson's disease." Charcot rejected the earlier designation of "paralysis agitans," correctly noting that Parkinson's disease patients are not particularly weak and do not necessarily have tremor (Charcot and Vulpian, 1861; Charcot, 1877b; Goetz, 1986; Schiller, 1986; Goetz et al., 1995, 2001b; Keppel Hesselink, 1996). Charcot distinguished bradykinesia as a cardinal feature of the illness, separate from rigidity. Charcot and his students described the clinical spectrum of this disease, noting both tremorous and rigid/akinetic forms. Charcot believed strongly that Parkinson's disease patients have no head tremor, and that any apparent tremor is a secondary oscillation resulting from trunk or extremity tremors. He demonstrated this with the use of a simple device: a head band to which was attached a long rod with a feather at the end: when patients with Parkinson's disease sat or stood, the feather oscillated prominently, but if the trunk or arm was supported or moved, the head tremor immediately ceased.

One of the best 19th-century descriptions of Parkinson's disease was given by Gowers (1888) (Fig. 33.3), although he incorrectly reported weakness as a feature of the disease:



Fig. 33.3. In 1888, British neurologist William Gowers published one of the best neurology textbooks of the 19th century, a two-volume textbook titled *A Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System*. Among the many excellent illustrations and meticulous and vivid descriptions were those concerning the clinical features of paralysis agitans (Parkinson's disease).

The aspect of the patient is very characteristic. The head is bent forward, and the expression of the face is anxious and fixed, unchanged by any play of emotion. The arms are slightly flexed at all joints from muscular rigidity, and (the hands especially) are in constant rhythmical movement, which continues when the limbs are at rest so far as the will is concerned. The tremor is usually more marked on one side than the other. Voluntary movements are performed slowly and with little power. The patient often walks with short quick steps, leaning forward as if about to run . . . The tremor is an alternating contraction in opposing muscles, causing a rhythmical movement of the parts to which they are attached. It is usually greatest in the hands and fingers, partly from the contraction of the forearm-muscles, partly from that in the interossei; the latter causes a movement of the fingers at the metacarpo-phalangeal joints similar to that by which Orientals beat their small drums. This movement may be chiefly in the thumb and forefinger, which may move as in the act of rolling a small object between their tips . . . Usually the head is free from tremor except such as may be communicated to it from the distant oscillation. It does not, however, always escape, as some [e.g., Charcot] have asserted . . . The great characteristic of the tremor of paralysis agitans is, as Parkinson pointed out, that it continues during rest. The hands go on moving when they are resting on the patient's knee, and the legs when he is sitting. A voluntary movement may stop the tremor for a few seconds, sometimes for many, but it recommences and accompanies the movement . . . The loss of power varies much in degree. At first slight, it gradually increases, and is usually greatest in the part in which the tremor developed first and most. The patient may ultimately be unable even to move the index of the dynamometer, or to rise from his seat. But the paralysis is never absolute, – some power always persists. Voluntary movement is not only feeble; it is also slow . . . This seems to be, in part at least, the result of muscular rigidity, which causes a resistance to passive movement. Another effect of the rigidity is to impress certain characteristic postures on the limbs. These are determined by the fact that the rigidity preponderates in certain muscles, chiefly the flexors. The arms are flexed at the elbow-joints, sometimes slightly, sometimes almost at a right angle. The wrists are usually slightly extended. The position of the fingers varies . . . often they

are flexed at the metacarpo-phalangeal joints and extended at the others, from preponderant contraction of the interossei . . . (Gowers, 1888, pp. 591–597)

Pathology

In 1893, Blocq and Marinescu reported a 38-year-old woman with hemiparetic parkinsonism who was found at autopsy to have a tuberculoma of the right cerebral peduncle that had destroyed the substantia nigra (Blocq and Marinescu, 1893). Brissaud (1895) relied heavily on this case when suggesting that the substantia nigra might be the site of the lesion in Parkinson's disease. In 1912 and 1913, Freiderich (or Fritz or later Frederic) Lewy (later spelled Lewey; 1885–1950) described serpentine or elongated eosinophilic intracytoplasmic *Kugeln* (i.e., “balls”) in the dorsal motor nucleus of the vagus nerve and in the substantia innominata of patients with Parkinson's disease (Lewy, 1913; Sweeney et al., 1997; Schiller, 2000; Holdorff, 2002).

In 1919, Trétiakoff first described the presence of these *corps de Lewy* (i.e., “Lewy bodies”), as he referred to them, in the substantia nigra, and proposed that they represented a pathology specific to Parkinson's disease (Trétiakoff, 1919, 1921). Trétiakoff studied the substantia nigra in nine cases of Parkinson's disease, one case of hemiparkinsonism, and three cases of postencephalitic parkinsonism, and found pathologic changes (i.e., depigmentation, neuronal loss, and gliosis) in the substantia nigra in all of them. Subsequently some investigators confirmed nigral pathology in Parkinson's disease, while the Vogts and other authorities instead emphasized pathological changes in the striatum (Vogt and Vogt, 1920). In 1938, Hassler found that some cell groups within the zona compacta of the substantia nigra were severely affected (Hassler, 1938). In 1953, Greenfield and Bosanquet at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, provided the most complete pathologic analysis of Parkinson's disease, confirmed the selective loss of the ventrolateral cell groups within the zona compacta of the substantia nigra, and emphasized the nigral lesion and the Lewy body as features of Parkinson's disease (Greenfield and Bosanquet, 1953; Goetz et al., 2001b).

Empiric pharmacotherapy with anticholinergic alkaloids

Belladonna alkaloids were empirically identified as helpful in Parkinson's disease in the latter half of the 19th century. Charcot noted that the anticholinergic alkaloid hyoscyamine (the levorotatory form of atropine) was modestly beneficial for the tremor of Parkinson's

disease, as reported in the doctoral thesis of his German student Ordenstein in 1867 (Foley, 2003). In 1887, Wilhelm Erb successfully introduced scopolamine (initially somewhat confusingly called “hyoscine”) (Foley, 2003). Similar preparations were used for generations with at best modest success. Synthetic centrally-acting anticholinergic medications were introduced in the 1950s and were soon adopted because they were associated with fewer systemic side effects (Corbin, 1949; Dorshay and Constable, 1949).

Surgical treatment

Because of the inadequacies of available pharmacotherapies, various neurosurgical approaches were also tried to address Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders, beginning very crudely at the end of the 19th century and expanding into a more modern approach in the 1930s through the 1960s. Initially neurosurgeons focused on lesioning the corticospinal pathways, but such efforts merely traded tremor and bradykinesia for paralysis.

Beginning around 1939, Meyers examined the effects of lesions in the caudate nucleus, globus pallidus, and ansa lenticularis, demonstrating that parkinsonian tremor and rigidity could be improved surgically without impairing consciousness or producing weakness or spasticity, although the surgical morbidity and morbidity were prohibitively high (Meyers, 1940). Au6 Stereotactic techniques were introduced into human neurosurgery in 1947 (Spiegel et al., 1947), and beginning in the 1950s stereotactic lesions to treat the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease were made variously in the ventrolateral thalamus, globus pallidus, and the emerging ansa lenticular fibers, although by the early 1960s most surgeons were lesioning only the thalamus (Gildenberg, 1998). However, by the end of the 1960s, neurosurgical approaches to the treatment of Parkinson’s disease were suddenly eclipsed and largely abandoned with the general availability of L-DOPA.

With the general availability of computed tomography in the 1980s, and with growing recognition of the limitations of medical treatments, earlier stereotactic neurosurgical ablation procedures were revisited and improved, particularly stereotactic pallidotomy (Laitinen et al., 1992a, b; Gildenberg, 1998; Speelman and Bosch, 1998).

Since the late 1980s, an important role of the subthalamic nucleus in Parkinson’s disease has been identified, allowing targeted therapies that modulate subthalamic nucleus activity to be effectively used for Parkinson’s disease (Smith and Parent, 1988; Guridi and Obeso, 2001; Hamani et al., 2003; Haméleers et al., 2006); initial beneficial results in animal models (Bergman et al.,

1990; Aziz et al., 1991; Benazzous et al., 1993) were subsequently confirmed in humans with Parkinson’s disease (Limousin et al., 1995, 1998; Krack et al., 2003). Au7

In 1987, Alim Louis Benabid, Pierre Pollak, and colleagues at the University of Grenoble in France pioneered the use of non-destructive and reversible high-frequency electrical stimulation of deep brain nuclei with implanted electrodes (Benabid et al., 1987). This deep brain stimulation approach was applied first to the Vim (ventralis intermedius) nucleus of the thalamus and was found to be effective in controlling disabling tremor (Benabid et al., 1991, 1994; Siegfried, 1994; Siegfried and Lippitz, 1994). Deep brain stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus or the pars interna of the globus pallidus has fewer reported adverse effects than ablative procedures, and has been found to be more globally effective than thalamotomy or thalamic stimulation in addressing rigidity, tremor, bradykinesia, motor fluctuations, and dyskinesias in patients with Parkinson’s disease; nevertheless, deep brain stimulation cannot prevent the progression of Parkinson’s disease, nor does it alleviate associated problems with cognition, speech, or balance.

Neurochemistry and the L-DOPA story

Important biochemical developments began in the 1950s that paved the way for rational therapeutics, including the recognition by Montagu (1957) that dopamine is present in the mammalian brain, the report by Au8 Arvid Carlsson and colleagues that racemic DOPA (D,L 3-4 dihydroxyphenylalanine), a dopamine precursor, antagonizes the sedative and bradykinetic effects of reserpine in rabbits and mice (Carlsson et al., 1957), and the demonstration that dopamine is localized primarily within the neostriatum (Bertler and Rosenberg, 1959; Carlsson, 1959; Sano et al., 1959; Au9 Foley, 2000). Based on the distribution of dopamine in the brain with concentration in the basal ganglia, the production of parkinsonism and brain catecholamine depletion by reserpine, and restoration of normal function by administration of the dopamine precursor DOPA, Carlsson and colleagues proposed that depletion of dopamine will induce parkinsonism and that treatment with L-DOPA will reverse the syndrome by restoring brain dopamine levels (Carlsson et al., 1959; Carlsson, 2003), work for which Carlsson was later Au10 awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2000 (Carlsson, 2003). In 1960, Degwitz and colleagues demonstrated that L-DOPA reversed the sedation of reserpine in humans (Degwitz et al., 1960), confirming Carlsson and colleagues’ earlier report in animals. In 1961, Ehringer and Hornykiewicz documented the dramatic loss of dopamine in the striatum of brains

from patients dying with post-encephalitic and idiopathic Parkinson's disease (Ehringer and Hornykiewicz, 1961).

Au11

In 1962, following this series of neurochemical discoveries and especially with the understanding that dopamine is depleted in the striatum, Birkmayer and Hornykiewicz (1962) reported dramatic reduction of akinesia and improvement in speech and gait in Parkinson's disease patients using intravenous L-DOPA, and Barbeau et al. (1962) reported similar results with small oral doses of racemic DOPA. Birkmayer and Hornykiewicz's description of what they called the "L-DOPA-Effekt" still vividly conveys the dramatic improvement observed:

Au12

The effect of a single i.v. administration of L-DOPA was, in short, a complete abolition or substantial relief of akinesia. Bed-ridden patients who were unable to sit up; patients who could not stand up when seated; and patients who when standing could not start walking, performed after L-DOPA all these activities with ease. They walked around with normal associated movements and they even could run and jump. The voiceless, aphonic speech, blurred by pallilalia and unclear articulation, became forceful and clear as in a normal person. For short periods of time the patients were able to perform motor activities which could not be prompted to any comparable degree by any other drug. (Birkmayer and Hornykiewicz, 1962; Hornykiewicz, 2001, p. 859)

Au13

Unfortunately, subsequent reports of the efficacy of DOPA were at best inconsistent—a small placebo-controlled trial demonstrated no convincing benefit for L-DOPA treatment (McGreer and Zeldowitz, 1964), and a double-blind trial found no significant difference between L-DOPA and placebo (Fehling, 1966) – so in short order the initially reported beneficial effects of DOPA were largely discounted. With hindsight these negative results reflected a combination of small doses of medication and problems of study design (including very small sample sizes and inadequate controls).

Au14

Cotzias and colleagues nevertheless persevered with DOPA as a treatment for Parkinson's disease and, in 1967, reported the successful use of high-dose oral racemic DOPA in an open trial (Cotzias et al., 1967). Using doses from 4 to 16 grams of racemic DOPA daily, Cotzias et al. (1967, p. 375) noted "complete sustained disappearance or marked amelioration" of symptoms in half of their 16 patients, with a clear dose-response relationship, and with manageable side effects (transient nausea, faintness, occasional vomiting, and dyskinesias). Cotzias et al.

(1969) later showed that the benefits of L-DOPA are sustainable for extended periods, and side effects could be managed or prevented by slow dose escalation or with co-administration of a peripheral dopa-decarboxylase inhibitor. These findings were later confirmed in double-blind trials with L-DOPA alone (Yahr et al., 1969) or in combination with a dopa-decarboxylase inhibitor (Calne et al., 1971). In 1975, Lloyd and colleagues showed that dopamine levels in the striatum are an order of magnitude higher in the striatum of Parkinson's disease patients treated with L-DOPA than in untreated patients, are greater in good responders than poor responders, and are related to the time before death of the last dose (Lloyd et al., 1975). Subsequent progress has included development of long-acting levodopa preparations and inhibitors of catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT), the enzyme responsible for most of the peripheral degradation of L-DOPA.

Beginning in the mid-1960s, a previously unsuspected nigrostriatal dopaminergic neuronal projection was demonstrated first in the rat (Anden et al., 1964, 1965), and shortly thereafter unilateral lesions of the substantia nigra were shown to deplete striatal dopamine ipsilaterally in monkeys (Poirer and Sourkes, 1965; Goldstein et al., 1966). The nigrostriatal projection had escaped previous notice because the fibers were too small and thinly myelinated to be shown by classic histologic techniques. Degeneration of neurons in the pars compacta of the substantia nigra in Parkinson's disease was then understood to cause depletion of striatal dopamine as a result of degeneration of the nigrostriatal projections, neatly explaining various pathologic and neurochemical observations, and finally settling the lingering controversy of whether it is the substantia nigra or the striatum that is affected in Parkinson's disease (they *both* were!).

Dopamine agonists

Shortly after the advent of L-DOPA therapy for Parkinson's disease, it became apparent that chronic therapy was associated with development of motor fluctuations, dyskinesias, and loss of efficacy in some patients. These changes were thought to be due in part to loss of the presynaptic pigmented neurons in the substantia nigra, which normally function to convert L-DOPA to dopamine, which is then transported and released onto post-synaptic receptors in the striatum. It was hoped that the limitations of L-DOPA might be overcome by development of dopamine agonists that could directly stimulate striatal neurons.

Apomorphine was the first dopamine agonist, synthesized from morphine in the 19th century. In 1951, Schwab and colleagues noted that apomorphine injection could cause a marked temporary improvement

in Parkinson's disease patients (Schwab et al., 1951), and in 1965 Ernst recognized the structural similarity of apomorphine and dopamine (Ernst, 1965). In 1970, in light of the side effects increasingly recognized with L-DOPA, Cotzias and colleagues re-evaluated apomorphine in Parkinson's disease and reported significant anti-parkinsonian effects (Cotzias et al., 1970), but toxicity and the need for parenteral administration limited its usefulness. Later attempts with oral apomorphine (Cotzias et al., 1976) were also abandoned, because of the development of dose-dependent azotemia with long-term therapy. Only recently has apomorphine been revisited in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Most subsequent dopamine agonists were synthetic derivatives of ergot, the first of which was bromocriptine. In the late 1960s, bromocriptine was originally tested in humans as a potential prolactin inhibitor. Subsequently, dopamine was found to be an inhibitor of prolactin release, and bromocriptine was found to have dopaminergic properties in rats (Corrodi et al., 1973). In 1974, Calne and colleagues reported the beneficial effects of bromocriptine in Parkinson's disease in a double-blind trial (Calne et al., 1974). Patients with severe dyskinesia or motor fluctuations benefited from adding bromocriptine while reducing the dose of L-DOPA.

Kebabian and Calne (1979) later used the pharmacologic properties of bromocriptine to propose that there are at least two kinds of dopamine receptors, termed D1 and D2, and that parkinsonism results at least in part from inadequate transmission at D2 receptors. These two types of receptors are now known to exert their biological actions by coupling to and activating different molecular switches called G-protein complexes, so named because they react with GTP in order to transduce extracellular "first messenger" signals identified by a specific extracellular receptor to amplified intracellular "second messenger" signals (Gilman, 1997; Rodbell, 1997): specifically extracellular dopamine (the first messenger) acts on D1 receptors (the discriminator) through a G-protein complex (the transducer) to *activate* adenylyl cyclase (the amplifier) and increase production of intracellular cAMP (the second messenger), whereas extracellular dopamine acts on D2 receptors through a G-protein complex to *inhibit* adenylyl cyclase and decrease cAMP production.

Five types of dopamine receptors are now recognized: D1 and D5 receptors are members of the D1-like family of receptors, whereas D2, D3, and D4 receptors are members of the D2-like family. These receptor types have overlapping but distinct localizations within the central nervous system, but the D1 and D2 receptors are the predominant receptor types within the nigrostriatal system, and both are highly expressed in the striatum (Lahti et al., 1995). The human genes for all of these receptor types have been cloned.

Genetics and molecular biology

Throughout much of the 20th century, Parkinson's disease was suspected to be a "non-genetic" disorder, in part because extended pedigrees of familial Parkinson's disease were not available, in part because exogenous factors (e.g., neuroleptic medications and later MPTP) were identified that produced forms of parkinsonism clinically similar to that of Parkinson's disease, and in part on the basis of twin studies that were interpreted as excluding a significant genetic etiology for Parkinson's disease. However, by 1990 a re-evaluation, including a meta-analysis of twin studies, suggested that genetic factors could be important to the pathogenesis of at least some forms of Parkinson's disease (Johnson et al., 1990).

In 1990, Lawrence Golbe, Roger Duvoisin, and colleagues reported an autosomal dominant form of Parkinson's disease in two large kindreds originating in the village of Contursi in the Salerno province of Italy (Golbe et al., 1990); the disease in this kindred was characterized by often early onset and rapid progression, a lower frequency of tremor, responsiveness to L-DOPA, and pathologic findings typical of Parkinson's disease with Lewy bodies. In 1996, Mihael Polymeropoulos and colleagues at the US National Institutes of Health established linkage of Parkinson's disease in the Contursi kindred to chromosome 4q21-23 (Polymeropoulos et al., 1996), an area to which the alpha-synuclein gene had been mapped (Chen et al., 1995). Shortly thereafter, Polymeropoulos et al. (1997) showed that disease in this family and several Greek kindreds resulted from a mutation in the alpha-synuclein gene (PARK1). Alpha-synuclein—a small protein only 144 amino acids long—had been recognized in human brains in the mid 1990s (Ueda et al., 1993; Campion et al., 1995), and was known to be concentrated in presynaptic nerve terminals (Jakes et al., 1994).

Following recognition that familial Parkinson's disease could result from mutations in the alpha-synuclein gene, synuclein was rapidly shown to be the major fibrillar component of Lewy bodies and Lewy neuritis in both sporadic Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies (Spillantini et al., 1997; Giasson et al., 2000). Subsequent studies have shown that mutated alpha-synuclein does not fold properly, resists proteasome degradation, and tends to form insoluble aggregates. Although mutations in the alpha-synuclein gene are very rare and represent less than 1% of the worldwide burden of Parkinson's disease, these developments triggered intense interest and rapid progress in understanding the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease.

In 1998, only a year after the discovery of the alpha-synuclein mutation, Japanese researchers reported mutations in a separate gene (PARK2) on chromosome

6q25.2-q27, whose protein product was designated “parkin” (Kitada et al., 1998), in Japanese families with early-onset parkinsonism segregating as an autosomal recessive trait (Matsumine et al., 1997). Other previously reported families with juvenile-onset parkinsonism (Ishikawa and Miyatake, 1995), were also then reported to have mutations in the PARK2 gene (Hayashi et al., 2000). Patients affected by mutations in PARK2 were found to have a wide range in age of onset, with slow progression, generally symmetric involvement, dystonia at onset, hyperreflexia, a good response to L-DOPA, and dyskinesias during treatment (Lucking et al., 2000; Kann et al., 2002; Pramstaller et al., 2005). Some patients were later found to present at an older age with clinical features indistinguishable from idiopathic Parkinson’s disease (Pramstaller et al., 2005). Although initially reported to lack Lewy bodies, subsequent studies have shown that alpha-synuclein positive Lewy bodies can be present in the substantia nigra and locus ceruleus of patients dying with parkin-associated parkinsonism (Pramstaller et al., 2005). Mutations in the PARK2 gene are now the most frequent known genetic cause of parkinsonism.

In 1998, Kitada and colleagues suggested that parkin may interfere with ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation and cause the death of nigral neurons (Kitada et al., 1998).

The ubiquitin-proteasome proteolytic system had been elucidated, beginning in the late 1970s, largely through the efforts of Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko of Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Irwin Rose of the University of California-Irvine, work for which the three received the 2004 Nobel Prize in chemistry (Ciechanover, 2005; Hershko, 2005; Rose, 2005). In this “garbage disposal” system, a very small (76 amino acids long), highly evolutionarily conserved protein called ubiquitin is activated by the ubiquitin-activating enzyme (E1), then transferred to a ubiquitin-carrier protein called ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme (E2), which transfers the activated ubiquitin to a ubiquitin-protein ligase (E3), which in turn attaches the ubiquitin to a protein to be degraded. Repetitive conjugation of ubiquitin moieties produces a poly-ubiquitin chain, a tagging process dramatically termed “the kiss of death,” which marks the protein for recognition by the proteasome, a molecular complex that digests proteins into short peptides and finally into amino acids that are recycled for further protein synthesis.

In 2000, Shimura and colleagues reported that parkin is indeed involved in protein degradation as an ubiquitin-protein ligase (E3), a function lost in autosomal recessive juvenile-onset parkinsonism (Shimura et al., 2000). The following year, Shimura et al. (2001) reported that a particular form of alpha-synuclein is a protein substrate for parkin, an important finding

linking these two Parkinson’s disease genes by the ubiquitin-proteasome proteolytic system. Mutant parkin fails to attach ubiquitin to misfolded proteins, which then accumulate and cause cell death. Subsequent identification of other genetic forms of parkinsonism have reinforced the importance of this pathway in the pathogenesis of Parkinson’s disease.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA: VON ECONOMO’S ENCEPHALITIS

In 1917 and 1918, Constantin von Economo (1876–1931) described the clinical and pathological findings of 13 cases with an unusual encephalitic condition that had occurred during the winter of 1916–1917, often with profound lethargy or stupor (von Economo, 1917, 1918): Au15

It seems strange when sleep appears as a symptom of an illness. “Sleeping sickness” where the phenomenon of people falling asleep while eating or working was first described in two cases in our clinic in Vienna in 1916. Usually headache, nausea, and fever were followed, often the next day, by sleeping, frequently in a most uncomfortable position. One can wake them, but in severe cases, coma can rapidly lead to death. Malfunction of eye muscles, especially oculomotor dysfunction, and ptosis, was common. (von Economo, 1918/2001, as translated by Dickman, 2001, p. 1696) Au16

He named the condition “encephalitis lethargica” and identified three overlapping clinical subsets of the acute illness: somnolent-ophthalmoplegic, hyperkinetic, and amyostatic-akinetic. He documented the highly variable acute manifestations, which included sleep disturbances, lethargy, neuropsychiatric disorders (e.g., catatonia, obsessive-compulsive disorder), oculomotor abnormalities, and various associated hypo- and hyperkinetic movement disorders, including rigidity, akinesia, generalized and hemi-chorea, myoclonus, dystonia, opisthotonus, akathisia, and variably superimposed oculogyric crises. Von Economo subsequently studied the evolution, natural history, and sequelae of encephalitis lethargica over several years. He noted that post-encephalitic parkinsonism could develop early with the amyostatic form, or up to several years after apparently complete recovery from other forms of acute encephalitis lethargica (von Economo, 1931). In addition, he emphasized the neuropathological features, including microscopic inflammatory changes, particularly in the grey matter of the midbrain tegmentum and the basal ganglia.

Encephalitis lethargica became a global pandemic affecting more than one million people between

approximately 1916 and 1925. As the epidemic of acute encephalitis waned in the mid-1920s, numerous cases of post-encephalitic parkinsonism were identified, typically with bradyphrenia, generalized rigidity, bent posture, and unsteady gait, but usually without a pill-rolling tremor. Post-encephalitic parkinsonism cases were identified even into the 1930s, but by that time the nosologic distinction between idiopathic Parkinson's disease and post-encephalitic parkinsonism had become confused. There have been no further epidemics of encephalitis lethargica, although rare sporadic cases continue to be reported.

The etiology of encephalitis lethargica remains unknown. Although encephalitis lethargica and influenza both occurred in epidemics between 1918 and 1923, the timing and extent of the outbreaks were dissimilar (Reid et al., 2001). Furthermore, recent studies failed to identify influenza RNA in archived encephalitis lethargica brain specimens, and suggested that the 1918 influenza virus was genetically incapable of neurotropic disease (McCall et al., 2001; Reid et al., 2001). Despite considerable effort, no neurotropic virus has yet been implicated, and some have suggested that encephalitis lethargica was a post-infectious autoimmune disorder similar to Sydenham's chorea

Au17 (Dale et al., 2003).

DRUG-INDUCED PARKINSONISM

Neuroleptic-induced parkinsonism and associated movement disorders

In the 1950s and 1960s, shortly after the introduction of chlorpromazine and other related tranquilizers ("neuroleptics") (Delay et al., 1952; Hamon et al., 1952; Lehman and Hanrahan, 1954), a variety of immediate and late (tardive) drug effects were recognized that included various abnormal involuntary movements, including akathisia, tremor, akinesia, parkinsonism, choreoathetosis, dystonia, and dyskinesias (Hall et al., 1956; Schonecker, 1957; Ayd, 1961; Faurbye et al., 1964). Acute dystonia, akathisia, and drug-induced parkinsonism – with prominent bradykinesia, and also rigidity, postural instability, and tremor – were recognized in as many as 10–20% of patients (Freyhan, 1957; Ayd, 1961). Akathisia – a term coined by Haškovec (1901) to refer to individuals unable to remain seated as a result of hysteria or neurasthenia – was adopted to label features of motor restlessness occurring as a side effect of antipsychotic drugs (Steck, 1954; Kruse, 1960; Ayd, 1961); although early descriptions described motor restlessness, later accounts emphasized a subjective internal discomfort and a need to move to relieve this uncomfortable sensation (Chien et al., 1967; Van Putten, 1975).

Tardive dyskinesia – a term introduced by Faurbye and colleagues in 1964 – was recognized as an involuntary, repetitive, and choreic or stereotypic movement disorder that persisted even after the offending drug was stopped (Schonecker, 1957; Uhrbrand and Faurbye, 1960; Faurbye et al., 1964); most prominent were involuntary patterned buccolingual masticatory movements with lip smacking, puckering, chewing, tongue movements, grimacing, and other facial movements.

MPTP

In 1982, Langston and colleagues identified a group of drug addicts who had developed parkinsonism after mistakenly self-injecting a toxin called MPTP (1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine), a reaction product of the illicit synthesis of a meperidine analogue (Langston et al., 1983; Langston and Palfeman, 1995). Au18 The addicts rapidly developed permanent parkinsonian signs, including tremor, bradykinesia, rigidity, and postural instability. A similar case had been reported in 1979, but the role of MPTP was not clarified at that time, in part because administration of MPTP to rats, rabbits, and guinea pigs failed to produce a motor deficit (Davis et al., 1979).

In 1983, Burns and colleagues demonstrated that MPTP could induce parkinsonism in monkeys (Burns et al., 1983), with stooped posture, tremor, rigidity, and bradykinesia, which were reversed temporarily by administration of L-DOPA. When the brains of these monkeys were examined they were found to have histologic similarity to Parkinson's disease, with destruction of neurons in the pars compacta of the substantia nigra and marked depletion of dopamine in the striatum (Mitchell et al., 1985; Forno et al., 1986). It was soon discovered that MPTP is converted *in vivo* to MPP⁺ (1-methyl-4-phenylpyridium) by monoamine oxidase type B (Markey et al., 1984), a conversion that is necessary (although not sufficient) for manifestation of the toxic effects of MPTP in animals. Pretreatment with monoamine oxidase inhibitors prevented both the accumulation of MPP⁺ and the toxic effects of MPTP (Heikkila et al., 1984; Langston et al., 1984; Markey et al., 1984). The discovery of the selective neurotoxic properties of MPTP established a useful animal model, greatly accelerated basic research, and supported theories that an environmental toxin could contribute to the multifactorial causes of Parkinson's disease.

ATYPICAL PARKINSONISM

In addition to Parkinson's disease, a number of other neurodegenerative conditions have hypokinesia as a major clinical feature. Separation of these conditions

from Parkinson's disease ultimately led to important anatomical and physiological discoveries concerning basal ganglia function (Goetz et al., 2001g).

Wilson's disease

In 1911, British neurologist Kinnier Wilson (1878–1937) of the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, presented a thesis entitled, “Progressive lenticular degeneration: a familial nervous disease associated with cirrhosis of the liver” (Wilson, 1911). Wilson reviewed the clinical and pathologic features of 12 cases, including four he had seen and studied himself, two from the records of the National Hospital, and six previously published. Wilson concluded:

Progressive lenticular degeneration may be defined as a disease which occurs apparently only in young people, which is often familial, but not congenital or hereditary; it is essentially and chiefly a disease of the extra-pyramidal motor system, and is characterized by involuntary movements, usually of the nature of tremor, dysarthria or anarthria, dysphagia, muscular weakness, spasticity or hypertonicity, and contractures, with progressive emaciation; with these may be associated emotionalism and certain symptoms of a mental nature. It is progressive and, after a longer or shorter period, fatal. Pathologically it is characterized predominantly by bilateral degeneration of the lenticular nucleus, and in addition cirrhosis of the liver is constantly found, the latter morbid condition not giving rise to symptoms during the lifetime of the patient. (Wilson, 1912b, p. 1116)

Wilson's thesis was awarded a gold medal by the University of Edinburgh in 1911 (Wilson, 1911), and his definitive publication of 213 pages in *Brain* in 1912 occupied the entire issue (Wilson, 1912a). His findings were also published in shorter accounts in several languages (Wilson, 1912b, c, 1914). Though the first to describe the condition in detail, Wilson acknowledged earlier works by Westphal (1883) and Strümpel (1898) on “pseudosclerosis” (a 19th-century label for a clinical condition with tremor resembling that seen in multiple sclerosis but distinguished by the lack of ocular signs), and Gowers on familial “tetanoid chorea” (Gowers, 1888), associated ultimately with cirrhosis of the liver (Gowers, 1906).

The full clinical spectrum of Wilson's disease was not appreciated for many years. Unappreciated by Wilson, in 1902 Bernard Kayser (1869–1954) had described ring-like deposition of greenish pigment in a patient suffering from pseudosclerosis (Kayser, 1902), a finding

reinforced by Bruno Fleischer (1874–1965) in 1903, who recognized the ring as a marker for a neuropsychiatric disorder associated with cirrhosis (Fleischer, 1903; Denning and Berrios, 1990). In 1916, Bramwell suggested that Wilson's disease could present with liver pathology (Bramwell, 1916), a finding ultimately confirmed by Uzman et al. (1956). By the early 1960s, it was clear that while other tissues, including kidney and bone, could also be affected (Bearn, 1957), before puberty Wilson's disease generally presents with liver disease, whereas after puberty neurological presentations are typical (Walshe, 1962).

Understanding that Wilson's disease involved deposition of copper in tissues developed over several decades in the early-20th century. In 1913, Rumpel reported excess hepatic copper in a patient dying of Wilson's disease (Rumpel, 1913), and, in 1922, Siemerling and Oloff described the association of corneal pigmentation (“Kayser-Fleischer rings”) with sunflower cataracts and noted the similarity of the cataracts to those developing with a copper-containing foreign body in the eye (Siemerling and Oloff, 1922), but unfortunately these findings were apparently overlooked (Walshe, 2006). Later, Vogt (1929), Haurowitz (1930), Glazebrook (1945), and others reported excess copper in the brain or liver of patients dying of Wilson's disease. In 1948, in an influential paper, Cumings (1948) demonstrated excess copper in both the brain and the liver of patients with Wilson's disease. In the late 1940s, Holmberg and Laurell (1947, 1948) purified and characterized a blue copper-containing plasma glycoprotein they called “caeruloplasmin” (from the Latin *caeruleus*, dark blue), which was demonstrated to have reduced plasma concentrations in patients with Wilson's disease in the early 1950s (Bearn and Kunkel, 1952; Scheinberg and Gitlin, 1952).

A genetic basis for Wilson's disease was suggested by Bramwell (1916) and by Hall (1921) (who also coined the term “hepatolenticular degeneration”), but the autosomal recessive mode of transmission was not established unequivocally until 1960 by Bearn (1960). The gene responsible for Wilson's disease was mapped to chromosome 13 in 1985 (Frydman et al., 1985), and in the early 1990s Wilson's disease was found to be due to mutations in the *ATP7B* gene on the long arm of chromosome 13 (13q14.3), which codes for a 140-kD copper-transporting P-type ATPase (Bull et al., 1993; Petrukhin et al., 1993; Tanzi et al., 1993).

The Wilson's disease gene has close homology with the Menke's disease gene *ATP7A*, and is distinct from the loci for ceruloplasmin on chromosome 3 and the metallothionein cluster on chromosome 16. Loss of function of the Wilson's disease gene product results in excessive intracellular deposition of copper in hepatocytes, hepatic

cellular necrosis, and leakage of copper into the plasma, from whence it is transported to and deposited in other tissues, including brain.

In 1948, Cumings suggested that British anti-lewisite (BAL) might be of value in removing copper from the body and thereby in improving the prognosis of Wilson's disease (Cumings, 1948). BAL is a chelating agent designed during World War II as an antidote to the arsenical vesicant gas "lewisite," which had been developed during World War I (Vilensky et al., 2002; Walshe, 2006). By 1951, Cumings (1951) and Denny Brown and Porter (1951) reported clinical benefit from BAL in patients with Wilson's disease, even though the treatment required repeated painful intramuscular injections and was highly toxic.

Several therapies have superseded BAL in the treatment of Wilson's disease. In 1956, Walshe suggested that penicillamine could be an effective orally administered chelator for copper (Walshe, 1956), a suggestion confirmed by 1960 (Scheinberg and Sternlieb, 1960; Walshe, 1960). Penicillamine rapidly replaced BAL, but within a decade penicillamine was also found to produce several significant immunologically-induced side effects (Walshe, 1968), which led to continued efforts to find safer alternatives (Walshe, 1982, 2003, 2006). In 1961, Schouwink demonstrated that orally-administered zinc could significantly reduce the absorption of copper from the gut (Schouwink, 1961), a finding which was unpublished and initially largely unknown.

Zinc was later shown to be helpful in the long-term management of Wilson's disease patients (Hoogenraad et al., 1979, 1987; Brewer et al., 1983, 1998), although it may not be adequate for initial therapy (Walshe, 2006). Zinc induces the synthesis of intestinal metallothionein, a metal-binding protein in the intestinal mucosa, which effectively binds copper in a complex that cannot be systemically absorbed, and is ultimately excreted in the stool with desquamated intestinal epithelial cells. In 1982, Walshe introduced triethylene tetramine (Trientine) as a substitute chelator for patients intolerant of penicillamine (Walshe, 1982); triethylene tetramine is much safer than penicillamine and does not exhibit the frequent hypersensitivity reactions seen with penicillamine. In the 1970s and 1980s, liver transplantation was introduced and increasingly used for patients with hepatic failure (Groth et al., 1973; Sokol et al., 1985; Rothfus et al., 1988).

Multisystem atrophy (olivo-ponto-cerebellar degeneration)

For decades, the overlapping clinical features and pathologies in individual cases with sporadic olivopontocerebellar atrophy, striatonigral degeneration, and Shy-Drager

syndrome have been sources of confusion, burgeoning terminology, and competing nosologies. These disorders are now recognized as forms of multiple system atrophy, an adult-onset sporadic neurodegenerative disease characterized clinically by varying degrees of parkinsonism, cerebellar ataxia, pyramidal signs, and autonomic dysfunction, and characterized pathologically by degeneration in the substantia nigra, putamen, olivary nucleus, pontine nuclei, and cerebellum.

The term "olivo-ponto-cerebellar atrophy" was coined by French neurologists Joseph Jules Dejerine (1849–1917) and André Thomas in 1900, in their report of a 53-year-old patient who developed progressive cerebellar ataxia, masked face, dysarthria, hypertonia, hyperreflexia, and urinary incontinence (Dejerine and Thomas, 1900, 1900/1977). Autopsy at age 55 showed severe degeneration of the basis pontis, inferior olivary nuclei, middle cerebellar peduncles, and less so the inferior cerebellar peduncles, with loss of Purkinje cells particularly in the cerebellar hemispheres.

In 1933, Scherer gave the first clear description of striatonigral degeneration in clinicopathologic studies of four cases, two of whom had severe parkinsonism masking cerebellar signs, and two of whom had predominant cerebellar ataxia (Scherer, 1933a, 1933b; Berciano et al., 1999); in these cases, the severity of parkinsonism correlated with degenerative changes in the substantia nigra and striatum, rather than with the degree of cerebellar degeneration, as had been previously thought (Berciano et al., 1999). In 1964, American neurologist Raymond Adams and Belgian neuropathologist Ludo van Bogaert (1897–1989) introduced the term "striatonigral degeneration" for a sporadic neurodegenerative disorder characterized by parkinsonism plus other neurological findings (e.g., cerebellar dysfunction, choreoathetosis, dystonia, pyramidal, or pseudobulbar signs, etc.) (Adams and van Bogaert, 1964).

In 1960, Shy and Drager described a primary neurodegenerative condition in which autonomic failure occurred in association with other neurological manifestations:

The full syndrome comprises the following features: orthostatic hypotension, urinary and rectal incontinence, loss of sweating, iris atrophy, external ocular palsies, rigidity, tremor, loss of associated movements, impotence, the findings of an atonic bladder and loss of the rectal sphincter tone, fasciculations, wasting of distal muscles, evidence of a neuropathic lesion in the electromyogram that suggests involvement of the anterior horn cells, and the finding of a neuropathic lesion in the muscle biopsy. The age of onset is usually in the fifth to the seventh

decade of life. The disorder appears to be more frequent in the male. Any of the above signs or symptoms may be the presenting ones, and the hypotension may be a relatively late finding. The duration of the illness . . . shows the disorder to be of relatively slow progression (Shy and Drager, 1960, p. 511–512).

Variability in presentation, with components of autonomic, extrapyramidal, and cerebellar features led Graham and Oppenheimer to introduce the term “multiple system atrophy,” which was intended to “cover this collection of overlapping progressive, presenile multisystem degenerations” (Graham and Oppenheimer, 1969):

There is a group of progressive neurological conditions, most often arising during middle life, with symptoms and signs of lesions affecting several central nervous structures, more or less symmetrically. These cases are usually sporadic, but sometimes familial. The pathological findings are of cell loss and gliosis in a selection of well-defined structures (including both anatomical “nuclei” such as the putamen, and extensive cellular layers, such as the Purkinje cells of the cerebellum). In different cases, different selections of structures are affected. Some combinations of lesions are commoner than others: thus, familiar names, such as OPCA, have come into use. Nevertheless combinations are encountered which do not correspond with any familiar syndrome. In such cases, unnecessary confusion is caused by inventing new names, of the type “pallido-subthalamico-vestibular atrophy,” for unusual syndromes . . . What is needed is a general term to cover this collection of overlapping progressive presenile multisystem degenerations. As the causes of this group of conditions are still unknown, such a general term would merely be a temporary practical convenience . . . What we wish to avoid is the multiplication of names for “disease entities” which in fact are merely the expressions of neuronal atrophy in a variety of overlapping combinations. We therefore propose to use the term multiple system atrophy to cover the whole group. Among the structures at risk in this disease we must include the preganglionic cells of the autonomic system. These may be attacked apparently in isolation . . . or in combination with other structures . . . (Graham and Oppenheimer, 1969, pp. 32–33)

In 1989, Papp and colleagues reported that oligodendroglia in multiple system atrophy contain argyrophilic, tubulofilamentous inclusions in the cytoplasm, which

were called “glial cytoplasmic inclusions” (Papp et al., 1989). Glial cytoplasmic inclusions are not membrane bound and are composed ultrastructurally of filaments and granular material. This important discovery helped to define multiple system atrophy as a clinicopathological entity and drew attention to the prominent role of the oligodendrocyte in the pathogenesis of the disorder (Papp and Lantos, 1992; Lantos, 1998). Glial cytoplasmic inclusions were subsequently shown to be highly immunoreactive for ubiquitin and alpha-synuclein (Arima et al., 1998; Spillantini et al., 1998; Tu et al., 1998; Wakabayashi et al., 1998). The recognition that multiple system atrophy has inclusions composed of alpha-synuclein provided an unexpected molecular link between multiple system atrophy and Lewy body diseases, such as Parkinson’s disease and Lewy body dementia. Collectively these disorders are now considered “synucleinopathies.”

Progressive supranuclear palsy

“Progressive supranuclear palsy” is the descriptive name applied by neurologist J. Clifford Richardson (1909–1986) for an unusual condition he first encountered in the 1950s and later reported in detail in 1963 and 1964 with neurologist John C. Steele (1934–) and neuropathologist Jerzy Olszewski (1913–1964) (Richardson et al., 1963; Olszewski et al., 1964; Steele et al., 1964; Steele, 1994).

As reported by Steele and colleagues, their patients had

. . . an unusual progressive neurological disorder with ocular, motor, and mental features. The clinical picture was characterized by supranuclear ophthalmoplegia, particularly of downward gaze, pseudobulbar palsy, dysarthria, dystonic rigidity of the neck and upper trunk, and dementia . . . Commonly the disease started in the sixth decade and led to death within several years . . . Pathological investigation showed the presence of cell loss, gliosis, neurofibrillary tangles, granulovacuolar degeneration and demyelination in various regions of the basal ganglia, brain stem, and cerebellum . . . (Steele et al., 1964, p. 357)

The original appellation “heterogeneous system degeneration” (Richardson et al., 1963; Olszewski et al., 1964) was soon abandoned because the authors were not certain that it was a primary degenerative disease (Steele, 1994). The eponymic designation of “Steele-Richardson-Olszewski syndrome” was first used by Andre Barbeau in 1965 (Barbeau, 1965).

The initial speculation that progressive supranuclear palsy might be a post-infectious disease (based

on similarities with postencephalitic parkinsonism (Steele et al., 1964) has been discounted (Kristensen, 1985). Likely cases of progressive supranuclear palsy have been retrospectively identified from the era before the occurrence of encephalitis lethargica (Brusa et al., 2004), although one early suspected case (Steele, 1994), reported in 1904 by Posey and in 1905 by Spiller, has since been shown to have had a mid-brain neoplasm (Posey, 1904; Spiller, 1905; Siderow et al., 1998). Attempts to transmit progressive supranuclear to animals by intracerebral inoculation have been unsuccessful (Steele, 1972).

Au19

Progressive supranuclear palsy is characterized pathologically by predominant brain stem, diencephalon, and basal ganglia pathology, with neuronal loss, gliosis, and the presence of globose neurofibrillary tangles (i.e., filamentous neuronal inclusions composed of dense aggregates of neurofilaments and associated proteins). The neurofibrillary tangles are composed predominantly of 15-nm straight filaments (Tomonaga, 1977), which have strong immunoreactivity to the microtubular associated protein tau. The recognition that progressive supranuclear palsy has inclusions composed of tau provided a molecular link between various neurodegenerative disorders with predominant parkinsonism (including corticobasal ganglionic degeneration and frontotemporal dementia and parkinsonism linked to chromosome 17), which are collectively considered among the “tauopathies.”

Au20

Cortico-basal ganglionic degeneration

In 1967, Rabeiz and colleagues described three cases of what is now called cortico-basal ganglionic degeneration under the appellation of “corticodentatonigral degeneration with neuronal achromasia” – a label which summarized the distribution of neuropathological changes and highlighted one of the microscopic features (Rabeiz et al., 1967). The patients demonstrated progressive neurological deficits in middle age, with manifestations including unilateral or markedly asymmetric motor impairment, with dystonic arm postures, tremulous or jerking movements, dyspraxia, and gait dysfunction. What were later labeled as “alien limb” phenomena were recognized in the initial cases, including “uncontrollable elevation and abduction of the limbs that came on during attempted motor activity. Thus, when the patient attempted to walk, the leg hovered in the air instead of being placed on the ground, causing the patient to fall. Alternatively, when the unaffected right arm was being used in purposive activity, the left arm rose up in its way, greatly hampering the right arm’s performance” (Rebeiz et al., 1967, p. 23). Further cases were

subsequently described under various labels including corticobasal degeneration (Gibb et al., 1989) and cortico-basal ganglionic degeneration (Riley et al., 1990).

It is now recognized that a variety of movement disorders occur commonly in association with cortico-basal ganglionic degeneration, including parkinsonism (with akinesia, rigidity, postural instability, and falls), limb dystonia, action tremor, and focal reflex myoclonus. Other common clinical features include apraxia, alien limb phenomenon, eyelid and oculomotor abnormalities, dysarthria, and dysphagia, so-called “frontal lobe reflexes” (e.g., grasp), pyramidal tract signs, and cortical sensory loss.

Pathologically, there is asymmetrical cortical atrophy most pronounced in the medial fronto-temporal cortex contralateral to the side of the body most severely affected, with associated marked neuronal loss, extensive fibrillary gliosis, and achromatic ballooned neurons (Rebeiz et al., 1967, 1968; Gibb et al., 1989; Riley et al., 1990). Many surviving neurons are “ballooned” with cytoplasmic swelling, displacement of the nucleus to an eccentric location, cytoplasmic vacuoles of varying sizes, and loss of typical staining of the cytoplasm (“neuronal achromasia”). The substantia nigra pars compacta shows a marked loss of neurons with pigmentary incontinence, melanin-containing macrophages, marked gliosis, and occasional ballooned neurons. Ultrastructurally the ballooned neurons are filled with cytoplasmic aggregates of 10-nm filaments that stain immunohistochemically with phosphorylated neurofilament proteins. Although Rebeiz et al. (1968) emphasized involvement of cerebellar nuclei, these nuclei have not been prominently affected in subsequent cases.

Au21

Au22

CHOREOATHETOSIS

Since the Middle Ages, the term chorea (from the Greek word *χορεία* for “dance”) has been used to describe both organic and psychological disorders of motor control. In the Middle Ages, epidemics of a psychosomatic “dancing mania” erupted in central Europe coincident with the Black Plague, with St. Vitus among the various saints called upon to intercede, leading to the term “chorea Sancti Viti” (Krack, 1999; Goetz et al., 2001c). Paracelsus (1493–1541) introduced the concept of chorea as an organic medical condition with his tri-part categorization: chorea imaginativa (arising from the imagination), chorea lasciva (arising from sexual desires), and chorea naturalis (organic chorea) (Goetz et al., 2001c).

Au23

Sydenham’s chorea

In 1686, British physician Thomas Sydenham (1624–1689) applied the term Saint Vitus’ dance to his description of childhood chorea (Sydenham, 1686;

Goetz et al., 2001f). However, in so doing he also added confusion, because after Sydenham the term St. Vitus dance could mean either organic chorea (aka Sydenham's chorea, chorea minor, or chorea anglorum) or psychogenic chorea (aka chorea major or chorea germanorum).

There is a kind of convulsion, which attacks boy and girls from the tenth year to the time of puberty. It first shows itself by limping or unsteadiness in one of the legs, which the patient drags. The hand cannot be steady for a moment. It passes from one position to another by a convulsive movement, however much the patient may strive to the contrary. Before he can raise a cup to his lips, he makes as many gesticulations as a mountebank; since he does not move it in a straight line, but has his hand drawn aside by spasms, until by some good fortune he brings it at last to his mouth. He then gulps it off at once, so suddenly and so greedily as to look as if he were trying to amuse the lookers-on. (Sydenham, 1686, 1848/1979, vol. 2, pp. 257–258)

Subsequently, a number of observers suggested a relationship between childhood chorea, rheumatic arthritis, and valvular heart disease [e.g., Bouteille (1810), Bright (1831), Sée (1850), Roger (1866)] (reviewed by Jummani and Okun, 2001).

In 1887, William Osler (1849–1919) reviewed and reported clinical and pathologic data on 410 cases of Sydenham's chorea treated at the Infirmary for Nervous Diseases in Philadelphia since 1876 (Osler, 1887). In 1894, while at Johns Hopkins, Osler published a monograph based largely on his earlier studies in Philadelphia, titled *On Choreia and Choreiform Affections* (Osler, 1894), which continues to be among the most widely cited 19th-century American contributions to neurology (Lanska, 2001).

The bulk of Osler's treatise focused on Sydenham's chorea, which he described as "an acute disease of childhood... characterized by irregular, involuntary movements, a variable amount of psychical disturbance, and associated very often with arthritis and endocarditis" (Osler, 1894, p. 2). Osler carefully reviewed both the literature and the Philadelphia experience to marshal evidence that Sydenham's chorea is an infectious disorder, which is frequently associated with endocarditis, particularly affecting the mitral valve.

By 1899, a diplococcus had been isolated from the cerebrospinal and pericardial fluids of a child who died with chorea and carditis, and from 1901 to 1903 Poynton and Paine produced irregular movements, arthritis, and carditis in rabbits intravenously injected with diplococci

from affected patients (Poynton and Payne, 1913). Development of the antistreptolysin O titer as a marker of antecedent streptococcal pharyngitis in the early 1930s allowed definite proof that all manifestations of rheumatic fever, including Sydenham's chorea, are a sequel to group A streptococcal pharyngitis (Coburn, 1931; Todd, 1932; Taranta and Stollerman, 1956).

By the late 1930s, sulfonamides were demonstrated to prevent recurrences of rheumatic fever (Coburn and Moore, 1939), and in the 1940s prompt administration of penicillin for group A streptococcal pharyngitis was shown to prevent primary (initial) attacks of rheumatic fever (Rammelkamp et al., 1952; Stollerman, 1997). The use of antibiotic prophylaxis for prevention of rheumatic fever led to a marked drop in the incidence of rheumatic fever and its major manifestations, including Sydenham's chorea (Nausieda et al., 1980; Special Writing Group . . . , 1993; Stollerman, 1997).

As early as the 1860s, striatal dysfunction was implicated in childhood chorea by British physicians John Hughlings Jackson and W. H. Broadbent. Jackson concluded that: "It has long seemed to me that embolism . . . of parts in the region of the corpus striatum gives a most satisfactory explanation of the physiology and pathology of cases of chorea" (Jackson, 1868/1932/1996, p. 238). Broadbent claimed that chorea is "a delirium of the sensori-motor ganglia," which (in agreement with Jackson) is caused typically by embolism but which in some cases may be caused by "a morbid condition of the blood" (Broadbent, 1869; Greenfield and Wolfsohn, 1922).

In the early 20th century the embolic theory was discarded because of the "diffuse nature of the encephalitis," the absence of pathology of the cardiac valves in many cases of childhood chorea, and the relative absence of chorea in cases of adult bacterial endocarditis (Greenfield and Wolfsohn, 1922). Instead, several authorities proposed that Sydenham's chorea was a bacterial meningoencephalitis (Poynton and Paine, 1913; Greenfield and Wolfsohn, 1922). However, bacteria were not consistently cultured from brain tissue or cerebrospinal fluid of affected cases, and the process by which an infection would selectively target the corpus striatum was never satisfactorily explained. Sydenham's chorea is now understood to result from an antibody cross-reaction to basal ganglia epitopes following infection with group A β -hemolytic streptococci (Husby et al., 1976).

Huntington's disease

George Huntington's (1850–1916) classic description of adult-onset hereditary chorea in 1872 was preceded by earlier clinical descriptions by Waters in 1841, Lund in the 1860s, and Lyon in 1863 (Waters, 1841; Lyon, 1863; Au26)

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Browning, 1908a, b; Ørbeck, 1959; reviewed in Lanska, 2000a). Huntington first encountered victims of hereditary chorea at age 8, while accompanying his physician father around East Hampton at the extreme eastern end of Long Island, New York. After his own medical school graduation in 1871, George Huntington incorporated the clinical notes of cases treated previously by his father and grandfather in an essay titled "On chorea," which was edited by his father. Huntington noted the hereditary transmission, the gradual onset of chorea in adulthood, the progressive course, a tendency to insanity and suicide, and lack of response to treatment:

The hereditary chorea . . . is confined to certain and fortunately a few families, and has been transmitted to them, an heirloom from generations away back in the dim past. It is spoken of by those in whose veins the seeds of the disease are known to exist, with a kind of horror, and not at all alluded to except through dire necessity, when it is mentioned as "that disorder." It is attended generally by all the symptoms of common chorea, only in an aggravated degree, hardly ever manifesting itself until adult or middle life, and then coming on gradually but surely, increasing by degrees, and often occupying years in its development, until the hapless sufferer is but a quivering wreck of his former self . . . There are three marked peculiarities in this disease: 1. It's hereditary nature. 2. A tendency to insanity and suicide. 3. Its manifesting itself as a grave disease only in adult life . . . When either or both the parents have shown manifestations of the disease, and more especially when these manifestations have been of a serious nature, one or more of the offspring almost invariably suffer from the disease, if they live to adult age. But if by any chance these children go through life without it, the thread is broken and the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the original shakers may rest assured that they are free from the disease . . . The tendency to insanity, and sometimes that form of insanity which leads to suicide, is marked . . . As the disease progresses the mind becomes more or less impaired, in many amounting to insanity, while in others mind and body both gradually fail until death relieves them of their sufferings . . . Its third peculiarity is its coming on, at least as a grave disease, only in adult life . . . It begins as an ordinary chorea might begin, by the irregular and spasmodic action of certain muscles, as of the face, arms, etc. These

movements gradually increase, when muscles hitherto unaffected take on the spasmodic action, until every muscle in the body becomes affected (excepting the involuntary ones), and the poor patient presents a spectacle which is anything but pleasing to witness. I have never known a recovery or even an amelioration of symptoms in this form of chorea; when once it begins it clings to the bitter end. No treatment seems to be of any avail, and indeed nowadays its end is so well known to the sufferer and his friends, that medical advice is seldom sought. It seems at least to be one of the incurables . . . (Huntington, 1872, pp. 320–321).

Huntington's description of hereditary chorea was considered particularly important, because of his clear and concise wording, and because it demonstrated that hereditary conditions could have their clinical onset in adulthood (Lanska, 2000a). William Osler noted that, "In the history of medicine there are few instances in which a disease has been more accurately, more graphically, or more briefly described" (Osler, 1908, p. 115). By the late 1880s, authors began referring to hereditary chorea as "Huntington's chorea," as did Huntington himself after about 1895 (Lanska, 2000a).

Early neuropathological studies, particularly in the early-20th century, revealed atrophy, neuronal loss, and fibrillary astrocytosis, particularly in the basal ganglia and less consistently in adjacent areas and the neocortex. The gross pathology of Huntington's disease with marked atrophy of the striatum (particularly the head of the caudate and putamen with accompanying dilation of the frontal horns of the lateral ventricles) was recognized by Alzheimer (Alzheimer, 1911). Later studies demonstrated selective loss of gaba-ergic medium-sized spiny projection neurons in the striatum (Vonsattel et al., 1985) with relative sparing of the much smaller population of striatal interneurons, including medium and large aspiny neurons (Dawbarn et al., 1985; Ferrante et al., 1985, 1987). Indirect projections to the external globus pallidus are the first to degenerate (Reiner et al., 1988; Albin et al., 1990, 1992). The degree of clinical disability generally reflects the degree of loss of striatal neurons (Myers et al., 1988).

Au27

The distinct clinical profile, midlife onset, and autosomal dominant inheritance pattern made Huntington's disease ideal for investigation by genetic linkage analysis a century after Huntington's description. The initial approach used by Gusella and colleagues was based on the detection of variations (polymorphisms) in the length of DNA fragments resulting from digestion with restriction endonuclease enzymes which recognize

specific nucleotide base sequences (Gusella et al., 1983); the resulting “restriction-fragment length polymorphisms” (RFLPs) from individuals in large Huntington’s disease kindreds were hybridized with arbitrary segments of labeled DNA derived from normal genomic DNA. In the decade from 1983 to 1993, Huntington’s disease was sequentially linked to an anonymous polymorphic DNA marker, associated with a mutation in the IT15 (“interesting transcript 15”) gene on the tip of the short arm of chromosome 4 (in 4p16.3), and with the combined effort of a consortium of researchers from laboratories around the world it was ultimately attributed to an unstable expanded CAG trinucleotide repeat in a gene coding for a large (350-kilodalton) multi-domain protein with multiple functions labeled huntingtin (Gusella et al., 1983, 1985; Zabel et al., 1986; Gilliam et al., 1987; Wasmuth et al., 1988; Hoogeveen et al., 1993; Huntington’s Disease Collaborative Research Group, 1993).

As a result of these developments, Huntington’s disease was found to be the most common member of a family of neurodegenerative diseases caused by mutations in which a CAG trinucleotide repeat expansion in the protein coding region of a gene produces long segments of polyglutamine (or “polyQ,” where “Q” is the single letter code for glutamine) in the encoded protein. PolyQ diseases—including Huntington’s disease, dentatorubral-pallidolusian atrophy (DRPLA), spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (Kennedy’s disease), and several spinocerebellar ataxias—are all dominantly transmitted, typically adult-onset neurodegenerative disorders affecting selected neuronal populations.

Identification of the Huntington’s disease gene and the huntingtin protein product triggered a remarkable surge in research and numerous important discoveries of cell function and disease pathogenesis. Within several years, disease course and degree of pathological severity was clearly associated with the magnitude of the trinucleotide repeat expansion (Furtado et al., 1996; Penny et al., 1997). The CAG triplet is normally repeated about 20 times (with non-expanded alleles considered to include less than 27 CAG repeats). Alleles with 27 to 35 CAG repeats are considered “mutable normal alleles,” because they are not associated with clinical disease but have potential meiotic instability and so could possibly transmit disease in some offspring (ACMG/ASHG statement, 1998). Pathological effects occur when the length of polyQ exceeds a threshold of 36–40 glutamines (Duyao et al., 1993; Snell et al., 1993; Rubinsztein et al., 1996; ACMG/ASHG statement, 1998). A single copy of the mutant gene invariably causes disease when the number of repeats is 40 or more (complete penetrance), while some but not all individuals develop disease

when the number of repeats is between 36 and 39 (reduced penetrance) (Rubinsztein et al., 1996; ACMG/ASHG statement, 1998).

The length of the CAG trinucleotide repeat (and hence of polyQ) is inversely related to the age of onset and directly related to the severity of symptoms: disease onset typically occurs in the fourth or fifth decade of life for CAG repeat expansions of 40–50, but juvenile-onset cases occur in those with more than 60 repeats, and juvenile onset is invariably present in those with more than 100 repeats (Duyao et al., 1993; Stine et al., 1993; Trottier et al., 1994; Brandt et al., 1996; Penny et al., 1997).

Huntington’s disease had long been reported to have progressively earlier onset in successive generations, but the cause of this “anticipation” phenomenon was unclear and was suspected by some authors to represent a form of observation or selection bias (e.g., because persons of early onset in previous generations could be “selectively nonreproductive” because of manifestation of the disorder; see Myers et al., 1982), although a variety of genetic mechanisms including imprinting with DNA methylation were also considered (Reik, 1988; Ridley et al., 1988, 1991; Farrer et al., 1992). It was also recognized by the late 1960s that a disproportionate number of cases with early onset (before age 21 years) had inherited the Huntington’s disease gene from their fathers (Merritt et al., 1969; Barbeau, 1970).

These curious observations were inexplicable by traditional mechanisms, but after the Huntington’s disease gene was identified, both genetic anticipation and the tendency for early-onset cases to be associated with paternal transmission were understood to result from meiotic instability of the Huntington’s disease trinucleotide repeat expansion, particularly during spermatogenesis. Indeed, by the 1990s it was recognized that anticipation was a common phenomenon of trinucleotide repeat diseases. The trinucleotide repeat number was found to change in more than 70% of transmissions from parent to offspring, with a tendency toward expansion (Andrew et al., 1993), apparently because the CAG repeats form stable, hairpin-like structures, which produce mistakes with replication and consequently further expansion of the trinucleotide repeat. This instability of the CAG repeats during meiosis was found more often to result in expansions (and sometimes quite large expansions) during paternal transmission, so that juvenile-onset cases typically inherit the disease from their fathers (Duyao et al., 1993; Snell et al., 1993; Telenius et al., 1993; Zuhlke et al., 1993; Ranen et al., 1995). Thus, anticipation was found to result from a novel mutation process and not from selective gene activation or suppression mechanisms.

The molecular mechanisms responsible for the trinucleotide repeat expansion mutation have not been fully clarified: DNA replication slippage, homologous recombination, and slippage during dysfunctional DNA damage repair are among the mechanisms proposed. Initial studies suggested that trinucleotide repeat expansion mutations occurred during meiosis, particularly during spermatogenesis (Duyao et al., 1993), but both somatic tissues and gametes were subsequently found to experience trinucleotide repeat mosaicism (Telenius et al., 1994, 1995; Furtado et al., 1996), with the greatest levels of repeat mosaicism detected in brain and sperm (Telenius et al., 1994, 1995). Analysis of sperm from affected patients showed that both the mutation frequency and the mean change in allele size increase with increasing somatic repeat number (Leeflang et al., 1999); the extraordinarily high mutation frequency (82%) was felt consistent with a mutation process occurring throughout germline mitotic divisions, rather than occurring during just a single point in meiosis (Leeflang et al., 1999). Analysis of testicular germ cells subsequently demonstrated that human germ-line trinucleotide repeat expansions could occur before meiosis begins, but some expansions continue to occur during meiosis (Yoon et al., 2003). The expansion mechanism may be augmented in the male germline because of continuous cell division of spermatogonia throughout adult life, which could explain the tendency of trinucleotide repeat length in offspring to increase as a function of the age of the parent (Farrer et al., 1992). It is now believed that germline expansion accounts for the phenomenon of anticipation, and that tissue-specific somatic expansion may contribute to the tissue specificity of pathologic involvement.

Most efforts to understand the pathophysiology of Huntington's disease have been driven by the "gain-of-function" hypothesis in which a novel toxic property of mutated huntingtin is assumed to cause dominantly transmitted neurodegeneration. By 1997 it was recognized that mutant huntingtin with its expanded polyglutamine segment misfolds and aggregates, possibly as self-associating antiparallel β strands ("polar zippers") (Perutz et al., 1994), to form insoluble intranuclear inclusions (Davies et al., 1997; DiFiglia et al., 1997). The discovery of intracellular aggregates of mutant huntingtin supported the concept that neurodegenerative diseases are generally associated with protein misfolding, and suggested further that polyglutamine toxicity might result from its ability to form aggregates (Davies et al., 1997; DiFiglia et al., 1997). It was subsequently demonstrated that nuclear localization is necessary for toxicity (Yang et al., 2002), but it is still not clear (and is indeed contentious) whether nuclear aggregates are themselves toxic, are benign

biomarkers, or are effectively neuroprotective (e.g., perhaps representing the cell's attempts to inactivate the toxic expanded protein) (Zoghbi and Orr, 2000).

Several studies using animal models now suggest that soluble protein fragments, rather than insoluble aggregates, are the toxic factors involved. One problem for the gain-of-function hypothesis had been that rare disease homozygotes (i.e., with two mutant alleles) had been identified prior to identification of the Huntington's disease gene, and were found to have a similar age of onset to disease heterozygotes, suggesting that Huntington's disease is a rare "pure dominant" disorder (Wexler et al., 1987); however, because patients homozygous for Huntington's disease receive a "double dose" of any gain-of-function mutation, a greater toxic effect would be anticipated for homozygotes—an expectation ultimately confirmed in 2003 with a preliminary demonstration that homozygotes have a more severe clinical course (Squitieri et al., 2003).

The pathophysiology of neurodegeneration in Huntington's disease is still not fully understood, but apoptosis (i.e., inappropriate activation of programmed cell death, for example from direct activation of an apoptotic enzymatic cascade, or through loss or lack of transport of anti-apoptotic neurotropic factors, including brain-derived neurotrophic factor), transcriptional dysregulation (e.g., due to sequestration of polyglutamine-containing nuclear transcription factors), excitotoxicity (i.e., death of neurons resulting from excess glutamate neurotransmission) (Coyle et al., 1976; McGeer and McGeer, 1976; Olney and de Gubareff, 1978; Beal et al., 1986), and mitochondrial dysfunction (possibly linked to excitotoxicity) are among the mechanisms implicated. Indeed, these putative neurodegenerative processes were either initially investigated or elaborated substantially in models of Huntington's disease, and have since been applied to a range of neurologic disorders. Au28

The recent developments of transgenic mouse, fly, worm, and cellular models of Huntington's disease have contributed greatly to understanding of cellular processes and potential pathogenic mechanisms. Because of such models, there is now increasing evidence that multiple possibly overlapping pathologic mechanisms are involved in Huntington's disease, and in particular both toxic gain-of-function properties of mutated huntingtin and loss of function of wild-type huntingtin are now thought to contribute to neural degeneration.

More than a century after Huntington recognized the futility of treatment for hereditary chorea (Huntington, 1872), there are still no effective therapies to delay onset or slow progression in Huntington's disease.

Athetosis and post-hemiplegic hemichorea

In the first American textbook of neurology, published in 1871, neurologist William Hammond described a condition that he called “athetosis” (from the Greek term for “without fixed position”), “characterized by an inability to retain the fingers and toes in any position in which they may be placed, and by their continual motion” (Hammond, 1871; Lanska et al., 2001b). There were associated “pains in the spasmodically-affected muscles, and especially complex movements of the fingers and toes, with a tendency to distortion,” with a slower, sinuous quality compared with chorea, and without any associated weakness (Fig. 33.4).

Hammond speculated that “one probable seat of the morbid process is the corpus striatum,” a supposition ultimately supported by the autopsy on the original case that was reported by his son Graeme Hammond in 1890 (Hammond, 1890). There was a lesion involving the posterior thalamus, part of the internal capsule, and the lenticular nucleus (Fig. 33.4). Graeme Hammond “called attention to the fact that the motor tract was not implicated in the lesion, and claimed that this case was further evidence of his theory that athetosis was caused by irritation of the thalamus, the striatum, or the cortex, and not by a lesion of the motor tract” (Hammond, 1890, p. 555).

Despite the confirmation of a proposed clinicopathological association, athetosis was, and remains,

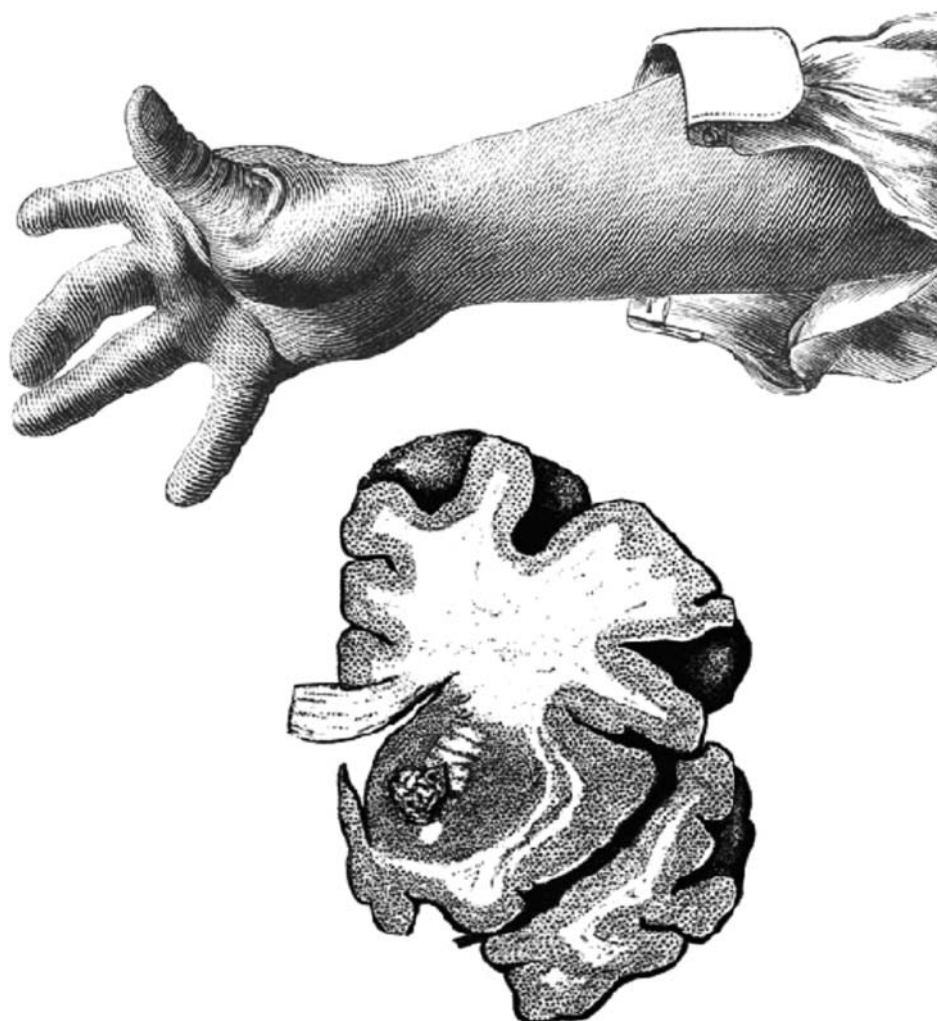


Fig. 33.4. Athetosis. Woodcut of athetosis taken from a photograph as illustrated in William Hammond’s Text-book of Nervous Diseases in 1871. Hammond proposed that the responsible lesion would be found in the basal ganglia. The autopsy in 1890 confirmed Hammond’s prediction. Hammond’s prediction and the subsequent confirmation are often regarded as a landmark in the clinicopathologic correlation of movement disorders, and specifically in the linkage of abnormal movements to pathology of the basal ganglia. However, at the time of Hammonds prediction, the motor centers were thought to be located in the corpus striatum.

controversial, being considered by many late-19th- and 20th-century neurologists as a form of post-hemiplegic chorea or part of a continuum between chorea and dystonia. Silas Weir Mitchell described similar cases under the term “post-paralytic chorea,” noting “as there is a post-choreal paralysis, so, also, is there a post-paralytic chorea . . . [In] adults who have had hemiplegia and have entirely recovered power, there is often to be found a choreal disorder, sometimes of the leg and the arm, usually of the hand alone” (Mitchell, 1874, p. 343).

Gowers felt there was considerable clinical overlap between Hammond’s athetosis and “post-hemiplegic disorders of movement,” and described similar patients in whom the movement disorder followed a sudden hemiplegia with some degree of recovery (Fig. 33.5) (Gowers, 1876, 1888). He argued for athetosis to be placed in a spectrum of “post-hemiplegic disorders of movement,” between the irregular “quick, clonic spasm” of chorea and the “slow, cramp-like incoordination” and tonic spasms associated with “spastic contracture” (Gowers, 1876, p. 291). As a result, Gowers

was willing to accept athetosis with the proviso that hemiparesis could be associated, depending on the extent of the lesion.

Charcot, on the other hand, dismissed Hammond’s athetosis as “simply choreiform movements” (Charcot, 1881, p. 390) or as “only a variety of post-hemiplegic hemichorea” (Charcot, 1881, p. 394), to which Hammond retorted, “I have only to say that the distinction between the two conditions is as well marked as between chorea and disseminated cerebro-spinal sclerosis. In athetosis the movements are slow, apparently determinate, systematic, and uniform; in post-hemiplegic chorea they are irregular, jerking, variable, and quick. Moreover, athetosis is not by any means necessarily post-hemiplegic” (Hammond and Hammond, 1893, p. 324).

Even modern authors have erroneously indicated that Hammond’s original cases were examples of a post-hemiplegic movement disorder (Dooling and Adams, 1975; Sharp et al., 1994), but, as emphasized by Hammond, “In the original case there had never

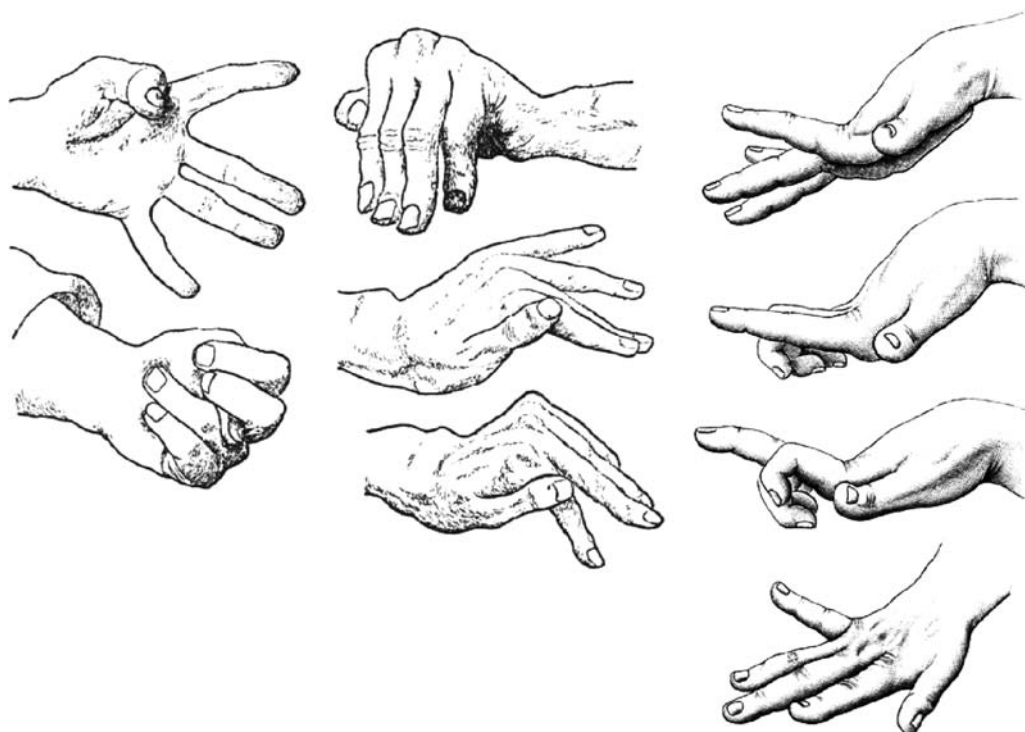


Fig. 33.5. Post-paralytic choreoathetosis was recognized by many eminent late 19th-century neurologists, including Charcot, Gowers, and Mitchell. The left-most column of illustrations from Gowers’ textbook show “continuous mobile spasm (athetosis) after slight hemiparesis” in a 24-year-old syphilitic patient who developed left hemiparesis at age 23 and abnormal involuntary movements 4 months later; “The hand was in continuous movement between the two positions shown” (Gowers, 1888, p. 80). The center column of illustrations, also from Gowers’ textbook, are some of the postures of the left hand of a 23-year-old man with “post-hemiplegic mobile spasm”; the abnormal movements began 1 year after onset at the time of some improvement in volitional movement (Gowers, 1876, Plate 12; 1888, p. 80). The right-most column of illustrations are other “examples of the position of the fingers in the movements of athetosis (Strümpel)” as shown in the late-19th-century multi-authored American textbook of neurology edited by Francis Dercum (Sinkler, 1895, p. 265).

been hemiplegia, nor was there such a state in the second case, on which [Hammond's] description of the disease was based" (Hammond and Hammond, 1893, p. 324). Hammond's cases both occurred after convulsions and loss of consciousness, and both were associated with some sensory loss. Hammond accepted that hemiplegia could be an antecedent in some cases, but "Where the motor tract is implicated there will be hemiplegia, spastic spasm, and exaggerated reflexes in addition to the athetosis" (Hammond and Hammond, 1893, p. 324).

Many preferred to incorporate athetosis into a broader conceptualization of chorea, noting that some cases included features of both types of abnormal movement, and that both could occur after hemiparesis (Wilson, 1925). However, in 1950, Malcolm Carpenter reviewed the literature and concluded that:

Athetosis is a pattern of involuntary dyskinesia which can be distinguished from chorea and is characterized by increases and decreases of tone in irregular sequence in antagonistic muscle groups and slow involuntary movements involving chiefly, but not exclusively, the distal appendicular musculature such that vermicular activity results . . . Hemiathetosis usually develops after hemiparesis, or in association with it, as a consequence of necrotizing cerebrovascular lesions which destroy part of the internal capsule and striatum on the side opposite that of the activity (Carpenter, 1950, p. 900).

Ballism and the subthalamic nucleus (nucleus luyssii)

In 1865, Jules Luys (1828–1897) named the subthalamic nucleus the "accessory band of the superior olives" (*bandelette accessoire des olives supérieures*), terminology that was anatomically incorrect, as noted by Auguste Forel (1848–1931), who instead proposed to rename it Luy's body (or corpus Luyssii) (Luys, 1865; Forel, 1877; Parent, 2002; Haméleers et al., 2006).

Several authors in the late-19th century and early-20th century reported cases of hemiballismus—characterized by continuous, non-patterned, vigorous, or even violent, large amplitude, proximally generated involuntary limb movements—but none of these early authors clearly established the subthalamic nucleus as the locus of pathology in hemiballismus. In 1884, Ralph Canfield and James J. Putnam presented one of the earliest such reports in their case of a 59-year-old man with "acute hemiplegic chorea": "The right arm and leg were found to be in violent and constant motion of a distinctly choreic type, but involving the muscles of the larger joints—hip, shoulder,

etc.—even more than those of the smaller" (Canfield and Putnam, 1884, p. 220). In describing the location of areas of infarcted brain at autopsy, Canfield and Putnam (1884, p. 222) noted that "The only ganglionic matter involved besides the substantia nigra was (probably) the so-called ganglion of Luys," but other brain areas were also involved, and no supportive body of evidence or theoretical framework were available to make a clear clinical-pathologic correlation.

The relationship between a lesion of the subthalamic nucleus and contralateral hemiballismus was first convincingly demonstrated by J. P. Martin in 1927 (Martin, 1927): Martin reviewed the world's literature and noted that 11 of 12 previously reported patients with hemiballismus and available pathology had lesions in the area of the contralateral subthalamic nucleus, including two with lesions restricted to the subthalamic nucleus, plus an additional case reported by Martin had a small hemorrhage nearly limited to the subthalamic nucleus. In 1947, Whittier noted that lesions of the *connections* of the subthalamic nucleus could also produce contralateral hemichorea or hemiballismus in man, a finding reinforced by Martin a decade later when he reported a patient with post-hemiplegic hemichorea-hemiballismus associated with degeneration of efferent connections of the subthalamic nucleus as they passed across the internal capsule in the subthalamic fasciculus en route to the internal segment of the globus pallidus (Whittier, 1947; Martin, 1957).

In 1949, Whittier and Mettler produced experimental hemichorea-hemiballismus in monkeys by lesioning the contralateral subthalamic nucleus (Whittier and Mettler, 1949a, b), an animal model subsequently utilized extensively by Carpenter (Carpenter et al., 1950; Carpenter and Carpenter, 1951; Carpenter, 1955). These studies demonstrated profuse interconnections between the subthalamic nucleus and the pallidum, but no clear descending connections from the subthalamic nucleus, suggesting that the subthalamic nucleus served to modulate the output of the pallidum (Whittier and Mettler, 1949a). Whittier and Mettler (1949b) found that at least 20% of the subthalamic nucleus had to be damaged to produce hemichorea-hemiballismus, although smaller lesions could produce hyperkinetic movements, if the efferent fibers in the subthalamic fasciculus were also involved. Subsequent lesions of the internal segment of the globus pallidus abolished or ameliorated the hemichorea-hemiballismus, a finding which was interpreted (erroneously) as suggesting that the subthalamus normally exerts an inhibitory influence on the pallidum (Whittier and Mettler, 1949b), and which in any case provided an experimental basis for what would later be a useful surgical therapy (Suarez et al., 1997; Slavin et al., 2004).

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, hemiballismus was generally thought to have a poor prognosis, often with progression to death within weeks or months (Whittier and Mettler, 1949), but more recent studies have shown that hemiballismus can have a relatively benign course with spontaneous recovery, or can respond to various pharmacological or surgical therapies (Klawans et al., 1976; Dewey and Jankovic, 1989; Ristic et al., 2002). In addition, with the advent of computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging, the recognition of both non-stroke causes (particularly for patients under age 55 years) and cases with lesions outside of the subthalamic nucleus has expanded markedly (Dewey and Jankovic, 1989).

As late as the 1980s, the subthalamic nucleus was thought to modulate basal ganglia output via primarily inhibitory (and presumably GABA-ergic) efferents to the pallidum, a seemingly straightforward conclusion generally consistent with previous experimental findings and with the clinical observation that lesions of the subthalamic nucleus seem to release the dramatic movements of hemichorea-hemiballismus. However, since the late 1980s, the neurochemistry and neurophysiology of the subthalamic nucleus have been substantially revised (Smith and Parent, 1988; Albin et al., 1989; Guridi and Obeso, 2001; Hamani et al., 2003; Haméleers et al., 2006).

In 1988, using immunohistochemical methods, Smith and Parent (1988) found that virtually all cell bodies in the subthalamic nucleus of monkeys are, in fact, intensely immunoreactive to glutamate, but not to gamma-aminobutyric acid, as had been expected. This finding, which implied an excitatory rather than inhibitory function for subthalamic nucleus efferents, was soon independently confirmed in cats (Albin et al., 1989). Subsequently, in 1992, Hamada and DeLong demonstrated directly that discharge rates of neurons in both segments of the globus pallidus of monkeys decreased substantially following lesions of the subthalamic nucleus, confirming that the subthalamic nucleus provides excitatory input to both segments of the globus pallidus (Hamada and DeLong, 1992). Since then, the subthalamic nucleus has been increasingly recognized to play an important role in the pathophysiology of both hyperkinetic and hypokinetic movement disorders (Crossman, 1989).

DYSTONIAS

In 1944, Herz provided detailed cinematographic and electromyographic analyses of 15 personal cases of generalized dystonia, as well as an extensive review of more than 100 literature cases, and concluded that dystonic movements are best described as slow,

sustained, powerful, and non-patterned contortions of the axial and appendicular muscles, with simultaneous contractions of agonist and antagonist muscles (Herz, 1944a, b, c). Dystonia is now defined as “a syndrome of sustained muscle contractions, frequently causing twisting and repetitive movements, or abnormal postures” (Fahn, 1988). Current classification schemes categorize dystonias by age of onset, parts of the body affected (focal, segmental, multifocal, or generalized), and etiology (primary or secondary) (Fahn, 1988).

Since the original descriptions in the 19th and early-20th centuries, dystonias have repeatedly been interpreted in psychological or psychiatric terms, because of the bizarre contortions exacerbated by voluntary movement, the relief by certain movements or gestures (*geste antagonists*), and failure to identify a neuropathological substrate, particularly for generalized dystonias (Zeman and Dyken, 1967; Zeman, 1970). Only in the late-20th century was an organic framework established with identification of genetic mutations in some families with dystonia (Ozelius et al., 1989, 1997a, b) and with demonstration that the putamen, caudate, and posterior ventral thalamus were often damaged contralateral to hemidystonia (Narbona et al., 1984; Marsen et al., 1985; Pettigrew and Jankovic, 1985).

Therapies for dystonia have focused on both central and peripheral pharmacology, with anti-cholinergic agents long employed with variable and at best modest benefit for neuroleptic-induced dystonia (Winslow et al., 1986; Goff et al., 1991), cranial dystonia (Lang et al., 1982; Nutt et al., 1984), and generalized dystonia (Fahn, 1983), and, since the 1980s, with botulinum toxin increasingly used as a treatment for focal dystonia (Elston and Russell, 1985; Mauriello, 1985; Tsui et al., 1985, 1986, 1987; Brin et al., 1987).

Generalized primary torsion dystonia

In 1897, Spanish neurologist Lluís Barraquer i Roviralta (1855–1928) described a patient with generalized dystonia, although he labeled it “athetosis” (Barraquer-Roviralta, 1897; Barraquer-Bordas and Giménez-Roldán, 1988). In 1908, Gustav Schwalbe (1844–1911), under the tutelage of Theodore Ziehen (1862–1950), presented his thesis on dystonic spasms in three siblings with onset between ages 12 to 14 years, which he attributed to a combination of hysteria and a variety of tics—hence his label “tonic cramps with hysterical symptoms” (Schwalbe, 1908; Truong and Fahn, 1988), a designation apparently influenced by Ziehen (1991), who later called this “torsion neurosis”. Schwalbe noted the “chronic course, characterized predominantly with tonic, not painful, asymmetrical cramps of variable intensity and duration spreading over the muscles

Au33 of the whole body” (Schwalbe, 1908/1988, as translated by Truong and Fahn, 1988, p. 657).

In his 1911 treatise, Hermann Oppenheim (1858–1919) described four Jewish children with a progressive form of generalized dystonia, which he termed “dystonia musculorum deformans” (Oppenheim, 1911; Goetz et al., 2001). Oppenheim insisted that dystonia is an organic disease and therefore rejected Ziehen’s term “torsion neurosis.” Oppenheim introduced the term “dystonia” to reflect his conclusion that the disorder is associated with a generalized abnormality of tone with coexistent hypo- and hyper-tonia: “in addition to an increased tonus of some muscles, one finds hypotonia of most of the others”

Au34 (Oppenheim, 1911/2005, as translated by Grundmann, 2005, p. 682). Oppenheim also suggested an alternative name, “dysbasia lordotica progressive,” emphasizing postural deformity and the bizarre gait, which he termed “monkey gait” or “dromedary gait.”

Flatau and Sterling (1911) instead emphasized torsion spasms as the major clinical feature: “Since the nature of the disease is still unknown to us we should retain its most outstanding characteristic in the designation. In our opinion this consists in the drawing, twisting spasm which is progressive in these affected children, so we select the designation ‘progressive torsion spasm’” (Flatau and Sterling, 1911/2005, as translated by Grundmann, 2005, p. 683). Because this is not a primary disease of muscles, and because not all patients develop fixed postural deformities, “dystonia” or “torsion dystonia” are now generally preferred over previous designations (Fahn, 1988).

Au35 In the late 1950s and 1960s, Wolfgang Zeman and colleagues demonstrated that primary torsion dystonia is a heritable disease (Zeman et al., 1959), and recognized *formes frustes* in families with autosomal dominant transmission (Zeman et al., 1960; Zeman and Dyken, 1967). Roswell Eldridge at the US National Institutes of Health subsequently emphasized autosomal recessive patterns among Ashkenazi Jews (Eldridge, 1970). In the 1980s and 1990s, it became clear that the disorder, though genetically heterogeneous, is usually transmitted as an autosomal dominant trait with reduced penetrance. The first primary dystonia locus, DTY1, was localized to chromosome 9q32–34 in 1989, and in 1997 the genetic mutation was identified as a three-base pair (GAG) deletion in the coding region of the Torsin A gene (Ozelius et al., 1989, 1997a, b). This mutation is responsible for most patients with early-onset primary torsion dystonia. Many other loci have now been identified with different modes of inheritance.

Treatment of primary generalized dystonia is still limited. Some benefits have been demonstrated with high doses of anticholinergic drugs (Burke et al.,

1986), sometimes combined with baclofen or other drugs, and with bilateral deep-brain stimulation of the globus pallidus (Vidailhet et al., 2005).

Writer’s cramp and other occupational dystonias

Several authors described writer’s cramp in the 1830s, including Scottish neuroanatomist and surgeon Charles Bell (1774–1842) and J. H. Kopp (Bell, 1830; Kopp, 1836; Goetz et al., 2001d), and these are often cited as the earliest reports, although reports as early as the mid-18th century have also been recognized (Lewis 1885–1886). In 1864 and 1865, British surgeon Samuel Solly (1805–1871) presented a series of clinical lectures on “scrivener’s palsy, or the paralysis of writers” that has been credited with increasing medical recognition of this condition (Solly, 1864, 1865a, b):

The disease, as the name implies, shows itself outwardly in a palsy of the writing powers. The muscles cease to obey the mandates of the will. It comes on very insidiously, the first indication often being only a painful feeling in the thumb or forefinger of the writing hand, accompanied with some stiffness; these unnatural sensations subsiding during the hours of rest and sleep, to return with the writer’s work on the next day. The loss of power is not sudden, as in a paralytic stroke nor is it a complete paralysis of any group of muscles. The paralysed [sic] scrivener, though he cannot write, can amuse himself in his garden, can shoot, and cut his meat like a Christian at the dinner-table; indeed he can do almost anything he likes, except earn his daily bread as a scribbler . . . When scrivener’s palsy first commences, the victim of it only feels its direful influence after a hard day’s work. He regards it only as a sign of fatigue, and, as he starts fresh the next morning, attaches no importance to it as the first attack of a serious enemy; but in a short time he is obliged to rest earlier in the day, and hails his early dinner hour with joy, as giving him some respite from the fangs of his tormentor. He tries to overcome his difficulty by holding the pen firmer, but this really only increases the evil. Suddenly he finds his pen dash off at a tangent, and the work that he intended to write in the proper line is, to his horror, commenced in the left-hand corner of the page. Not unfrequently [sic] the act of writing is arrested, not by such sudden diversion, but by trembling, and a shaking palsy limited to the right hand. (Solly, 1864, p. 709)

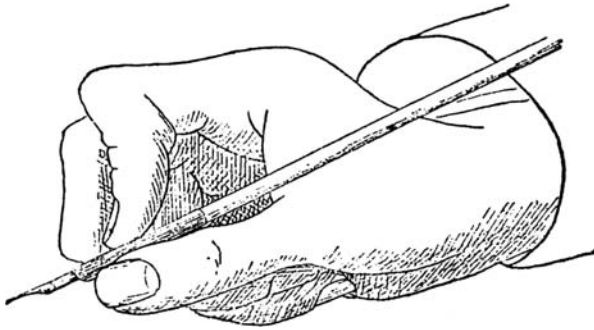


Fig. 33.6. Writer's cramp or "scrivener's palsy" was prevalent in the 19th century, before the advent of typewriters or writing instruments (e.g., ballpoint pens) that moved smoothly across the paper. The figure illustrates the "cramped method of holding pen, habitual to a patient who suffered from writer's cramp" (Gowers, 1888, p. 662).

Writer's cramp became a fairly common disabling problem in the 19th century, in part because of the large amount of writing performed, and in part because the available writing instruments required greater force to move across the page (Fig. 33.6) (Gowers, 1888). Case series of writer's cramp in the 19th century were often very large, including many dozens or even hundreds of patients (Poore, 1878). In 1864, Solly noted that "the greatest part of the middle classes of London get their bread by the use of the pen, either as the exponent of their own thoughts or the thoughts of others, or in recording the sum gained, lost, or spent in this great emporium of commerce—this vast Babylon [i.e., London]" (Solly, 1864). As noted by Sheehy and Marsden (1982, p. 462): "The frequency of the disorder in [the] late Victorian era must stand as a tribute to the success of the British Empire, the enormous office staff required to run it, and the difficulties of manipulating the quill pen".

There was a general recognition in the late-19th century that writer's cramp is analogous to other conditions that would later be recognized as forms of focal dystonia, including other occupational dystonias and torticollis (Solly, 1864; Beard and Rockwell, 1871; Lewis, 1885–1886; Burr, 1895). For example, Solly noted that, "Scriveners' palsy is not the only instance of a set of muscles being cramped and paralyzed [sic] by long-continued exertion. There is, as has been observed by Virchow, showmakers' cramp, milking cramp, the musicians' cramp, composers' and the sempstresses cramp" (Solly, 1864, p. 709). Similarly, George Beard and Alphonso Rockwell noted in 1871 that writer's cramp "seems to differ but little from certain other spasmodic conditions, such as wry neck [torticollis] and histrionic spasm" (Beard and Rockwell, 1871).

Instruments used in the treatment of writer's cramp evolved over time, and most were largely abandoned when the development of better writing instruments and alternative means of written communications (e.g., the typewriter) decreased the frequency of and disability associated with writer's cramp. Patients initially devised a number of simple but cumbersome methods of minimizing the muscle contractions associated with writing, including enlarging the dimensions of their pens (e.g., with a piece of cork, potato, or apple). A large number of simple mechanical writing aids were subsequently devised and reported in the 19th-century medical literature. Most of these instruments limited thumb and finger flexion, and instead utilized unaffected finger extensors or more proximal muscles moving the wrist, elbow, or shoulder (Fig. 33.7).

Nevertheless, many authorities considered any benefit of such aids to be limited, temporary, and in no way curative (Lewis, 1885–1886; Robins, 1885a; Burr, 1895), and some argued that use of such instruments ultimately resulted in clinical involvement of the entire arm and even greater disability. With improvements in writing instruments, there was "no temptation to exert pressure" while writing (Putnam, 1879); these changes followed replacement of quills and dip pens upon the development of workable stylographic pens in the 1870s and fountain pens ca. 1883 and after. After the development of the typewriter in the late-19th century, the use of such mechanical aids decreased markedly (Gowers, 1888; Blackwood, 1889).

Nineteenth-century authorities on writer's cramp also frequently advocated varying degrees of rest (Gowers, 1888), and sometimes applied splints or slings to ensure that the limb would not be used: e.g., some physicians enforced rest by fastening the hand upon a splint (Buzzard, 1872), while others similarly ordered the "arm to be carried in a sling for a week or so, to remind the patient that all writing is to be shunned" (Robbins, 1885b).

MYOCLONUS

Myoclonus is a sudden, non-suppressible, shock-like muscular contraction triggered within the central nervous system. Myoclonic movements can be "positive" or "negative": positive myoclonus results in the contraction of a muscle or muscles, whereas negative myoclonus (e.g., asterixis) is instead associated with a brief loss of muscle tone (Shahani and Young, 1976; Young and Shahani, 1986). By 1903, Lundborg proposed a classification system that remains largely in use today, with primary (essential), secondary, and epilepsy-associated categories (Lundborg, 1903; Goetz et al., 2001h).

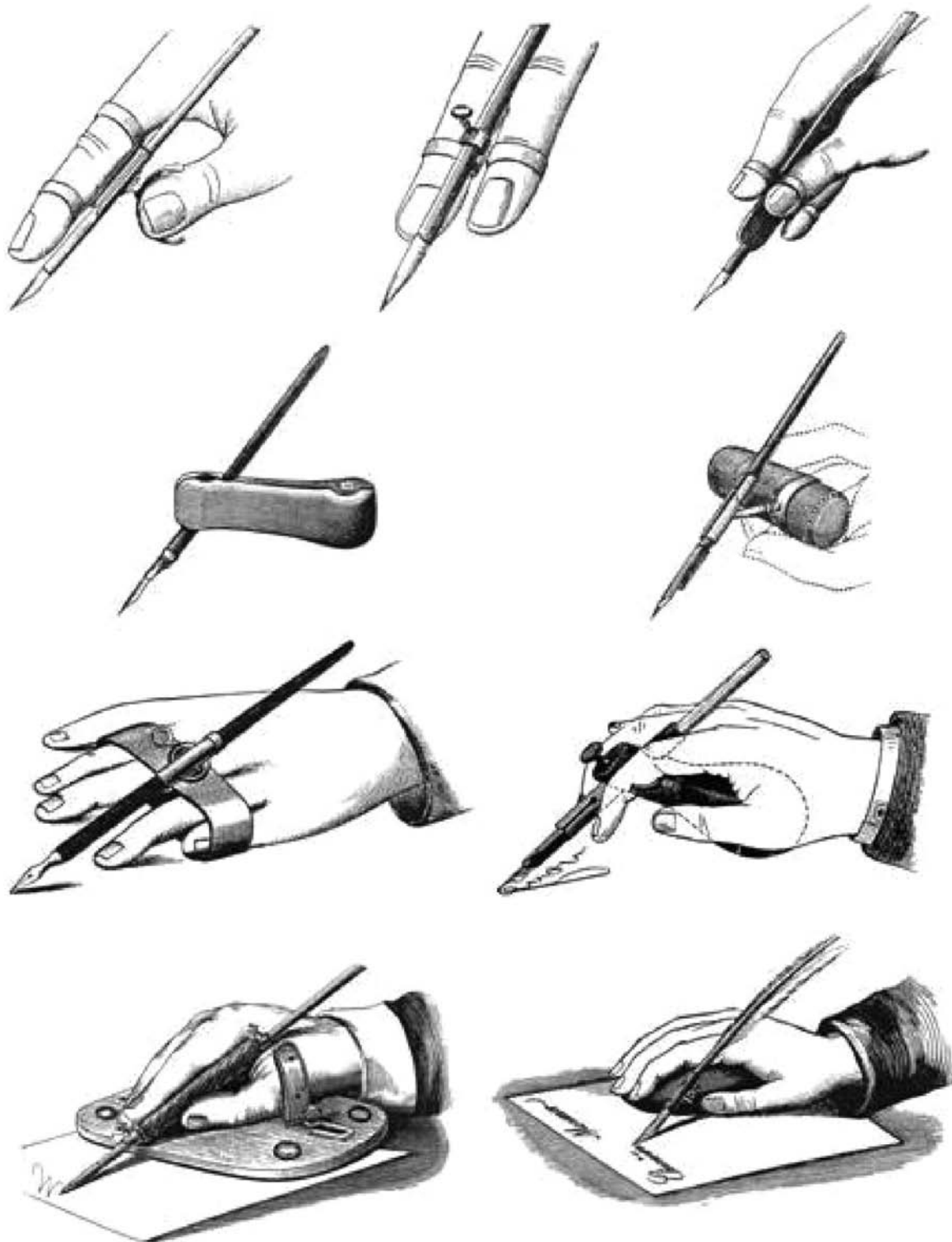


Fig. 33.7. In the 19th century, numerous writing aids were invented to facilitate writing for those with writer's cramp. Shown are a range of aids distributed by George Tiemann and Company of New York (Tiemann, 1899). All of the instruments serve to redirect the type of hand and finger muscle contractions used to grip or move the writing instrument. The top row shows various loop attachments for the fingers (to minimize the need to pinch the writing instrument), the second row shows grip devices (with a similar intent), and the bottom rows show devices that allow a sliding motion along the writing surface (in some cases resembling a modern "mouse" for a personal computer). With permission.

Essential myoclonus

In 1881, Nikolaus Friedreich (1825–1882) reported a 50-year-old man with a 5-year history of multifocal muscle jerking, occurring at a rate of 10 to 50 per minute, and affecting both sides of the body symmetrically but asynchronously. The rapid muscle jerks affected the bulk of a full muscle, without marked limb or joint movement, except in the most powerful contractions. Friedreich called the syndrome “paramyoclonus multiplex” to indicate quick movements, distinct from epilepsy, symmetrically affecting multiple sites of the body (Friedreich, 1881; Goetz et al., 2001h). Although Friedreich suspected the problem was caused by a spinal cord disorder, no pathology of the spinal cord was later identified at autopsy (Hallett, 1986).

Friedreich’s term was adopted in shortened form as “myoclonus” and in modern terminology his case would be classified as essential or idiopathic myoclonus. Lindemulder (1933) later reported a family with essential myoclonus, which helped demonstrate that such generalized myoclonus could occur in the absence of neurodegenerative disorders, epilepsy, or obvious metabolic derangement.

Myoclonic epilepsy

Throughout the 19th century, myoclonic jerks in association with epilepsy were recognized by various authors, including as part of what would now be called infantile spasms (West, 1861). In 1891, Unverricht reviewed the literature on myoclonus, dismissed the majority of cases reported to that point as incorrectly designated, and also described patients with progressive multifocal myoclonus and epilepsy (Unverricht, 1891). In 1903, Lundborg described additional patients with familial progressive myoclonic epilepsy, distinct from “paramyoclonus multiplex” or essential myoclonus. In the 1990s, progressive myoclonic epilepsy of Unverricht-Lundborg was linked to mutations in the cystatin B gene on chromosome 21q.22, which codes for a small protein in the superfamily of cysteine protease inhibitors. Other forms of progressive myoclonic epilepsy were also recognized, including lysosomal storage diseases (e.g., neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis), mitochondrial disorders (e.g., myoclonic epilepsy with ragged red fibers or MERRF), and glycogen storage diseases (e.g., Lafora’s disease).

Secondary or symptomatic myoclonus

In the 1920s and 1930s, multifocal myoclonus was recognized as a feature of encephalitis lethargica (Walshe, 1920; von Economo, 1929), Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (Creutzfeldt, 1920; Jakob, 1921), and subacute

sclerosing panencephalitis (Dawson, 1934). Secondary myoclonus is now recognized in a wide variety of disorders, including infections, metabolic derangements, hypoxia, and neurodegenerative diseases (Goetz et al., 2001h).

Asterixis and metabolic tremor

Asterixis is characterized by brief, arrhythmic interruptions of sustained (tonic) voluntary muscle contraction with associated brief lapses of posture, causing bilateral asynchronous flapping movements associated with intermittent pauses of electrical activity of from 50–200 milliseconds on EMG tracings (Adams and Foley, 1949, 1953; Leavitt and Tyler, 1964; Young and Shahani, 1986).

In 1949, Raymond Adams and Joe Foley first noted an “almost rhythmical” tremor during maintenance of posture in patients with advanced hepatic encephalopathy (Adams and Foley, 1949). In 1953, Adams and Foley expanded on their clinical description, correctly recognized that the flapping tremor is due to pauses in electromyographic activity and not to intermittent increases in electrical activity as had been supposed, and proposed the term “asterixis” for the “intermittency of the sustained contraction of groups of muscles” that characterized the abnormal movements:

A practical clinical test by which it may be elicited is having the patient hold the arms outstretched with wrists and fingers dorsiflexed. With the extremities in this position there occurs, in addition to a fine tremor of the fingers, a sudden lapse of the assumed posture, lasting a fraction of a second, in the fingers, wrist, and sometimes the elbow and shoulder. It is irregular in frequency and variable in amplitude; usually the rate is about once every one to five seconds. When the limb is in repose it disappears and during strong muscle contraction it is temporarily suppressed . . . Inasmuch as this movement disorder is essentially an inability to maintain a fixed posture the term asterixis (a—privative, sterixis—maintenance of posture) is suggested. Electromyographic analysis of the disorder reveals that the tremor has a frequency of 6–8 per second and that with the lapse of posture there is a reduction or cessation of electrical activity in both the muscles sustaining the posture and in their antagonists . . . Although present in the majority of cases of hepatic coma, we have seen it in three cases of polycythemia with mental confusion and in three cases of uremia. Therefore, it may be regarded as a characteristic but not specific clinical sign of hepatic coma. (Adams and Foley, 1953, p. 51)

Others soon recognized that asterixis occurred with various metabolic encephalopathies, including uremia, respiratory failure, drug intoxications, and electrolyte imbalances (Conn, 1960; Leavitt and Tyler, 1964), or unilaterally with various focal brain lesions located in the cerebral hemisphere contralateral to the asterixis (Leavitt and Tyler, 1964; Young and Shahani, 1976).

Au37

In 1964, Leavitt and Tyler added several important clinical observations concerning asterixis and the associated tremor:

The characteristic tremulousness and asterixis occurred only after a latent period of 2–30 seconds, tremulousness appearing first . . . [In] the context of increasing tremulousness, yet clearly interrupting the pattern of tremulousness, the hand, almost as a unit, but with fingers leading, lapsed forward anywhere from 2 to 5 cm only to be jerked back to its original position. The backward movement was often more violent than the lapse forward. The patients had no control over the lapse and no warning of its occurrence. Positional lapses were unassociated with any lapse in attention or consciousness . . . No patient was able to prevent himself from jerking his hand back once the lapse had occurred. The lapse occurred at similar rates in both hands, but asynchronously. Although commonly evoked with the dorsiflexed hand in pronation, asterixis against gravity occurred when the dorsiflexed hand was supinated. (Leavitt and Tyler, 1964, p. 361)

Au38

Leavitt and Tyler found that the average duration of electrically silent periods associated with asterixis on electromyography was 50–70 milliseconds. Although lapses in electrical activity were *initiated* simultaneously in different muscles within the same limb, the degree of electrical silence varied between muscles and even across locations within the same muscle. The EMG correlate of a flapping movement was found to be “a triple pattern of silence, discharge, and silence,” with the initial period of electrical silence occurring approximately 70 milliseconds before the movement artifact, followed by an “asymmetrical burst of electrical activity” corresponding to “a braking and withdrawal of the forward loss of position,” and then terminating with a 20–30 millisecond period of electrical silence which represented a “terminal pause inhibition of the braking-withdrawal discharge to prevent an overshoot” (Leavitt and Tyler, 1964, p. 364).

Leavitt and Tyler’s electrophysiological studies also showed that much of the tremulousness seen with asterixis was in fact due to shorter pauses or sudden brief decrements in voluntary electromyographic

activity occurring asynchronously in different muscle groups of the same limb (Leavitt and Tyler, 1964). They labeled this tremulousness “metabolic tremble” or “metabolic tremor,” and felt this was “a manifestation of the same phenomena that underlie asterixis” (Leavitt and Tyler, 1964).

Shahani and Young later labeled as “negative myoclonus” the postural lapses associated with reductions in EMG activity: “Because these synchronous brief *pauses*, which occur at irregular intervals in the ongoing voluntary EMG activity, produce movements that appear clinically to be myoclonic, one may characterize this as ‘negative myoclonus’” (Shahani and Young, 1976, p. 780; Young and Shahani, 1986). Young and Shahani considered negative myoclonus to be “a more inclusive term encompassing asterixis and tremor in patients with metabolic encephalopathy and other circumstances in which brief periods of EMG silence produce an abnormal movement” (Young and Shahani, 1986, p. 154).

Lance–Adams syndrome (posthypoxic action myoclonus)

Acute posthypoxic myoclonus is characterized by generalized, often massive, muscle jerks, associated with generalized spike and polyspike activity on electroencephalography. In 1963, James Lance and Raymond Adams described intention or action myoclonus in patients who had post-hypoxic encephalopathy (Lance and Adams, 1963). Chronic posthypoxic myoclonus was often restricted to the limbs, increased markedly in frequency and intensity with attempts to move a limb, particularly for precise motor tasks, and was also triggered by sensory stimulation, startle, or strong emotions. In addition to the “positive” spontaneous, action, and stimulus-sensitive forms of myoclonus, affected patients also had “negative myoclonus,” with postural lapses in their legs while standing or walking, causing leg buckling and falls, with associated periods of electrical silence in the leg muscles (Frucht and Fahn, 2000; Lance and Adams, 2001). “Positive myoclonus” often followed spike discharges on EEG with a latency of from 7 to 32 msec, whereas “negative myoclonus” was associated with post-spike slow waves or occurred in isolation. Additional associated neurologic findings included dysarthria, cerebellar dysfunction (i.e., dysmetria, intention tremor, and ataxia), gait disturbance, and grand mal seizures.

PATHOLOGIC STARTLE SYNDROMES

Startle is a universal and phylogenetically ancient stereotyped reflex response to sudden, intense stimulation, which can be exaggerated in a wide variety of

neuropsychiatric disorders, including various culture-bound syndromes (e.g., jumping, myriachit, and latah), hyperekplexia, startle epilepsy, benzodiazepine and alcohol withdrawal syndromes, post-traumatic stress disorder, and general anxiety disorder (Howard and Ford, 1992).

Jumping

In 1878, American neurologist George Beard (1839–1883) described the “Jumpers, or jumping Frenchmen” found among the French Canadians of northern Maine (Beard, 1878, 1880a, b). His initial report was based on conversations and correspondence (Beard, 1878), but he subsequently investigated the cases personally (Beard, 1880a, b). He noted excessive reactivity to sounds, automatic obedience, and echolalia. The term “jumping” encompassed all of the associated abnormal startle manifestations, including “lifting the shoulders, raising the hands, striking, throwing, crying, and tumbling” (Beard, 1880b, p. 174). Jumpers were physically healthy and active, and clearly distinguishable from the state of nervous exhaustion which he had previously described and labeled as “neurasthenia” (Beard, 1869). Symptoms persist throughout life, or in Beard’s (1880b, p. 176) words: “once a jumper, always a jumper.”

Beard felt jumping could only be practically studied by psychological means:

Far out of the range of the aided senses, far beyond the reach of the microscope, or perhaps the spectroscope, there may be molecular changes or disturbances which manifest themselves in these jumpings and strikings and throwings as a result and correlative. But for the present, possibly for all time, we can only study this subject psychologically . . . (Beard, 1880b, p. 175)

The cause of jumping remains unknown. Beard noted that jumping was familial, and believed that jumping was therefore necessarily “hereditary”; however, jumping is rarely seen in women and no detailed pedigrees supporting Mendelian inheritance have been published. Clinical authorities who have examined jumpers have most commonly interpreted jumping to be a culturally standardized startle response or an operant-conditioned response (Saint-Hilaire et al., 1986).

Jumping was largely forgotten until further cases were described in the mid-1960s and afterwards (Kunkle, 1965, 1967; Rabinovitch, 1965). These later descriptions include a somewhat expanded clinical spectrum, which includes pathologic startle reaction, automatic obedience, echolalia, and rarely echopraxia and coprolalia.

Miryachit

In 1884, New York neurologist and former Surgeon General William Hammond (1828–1900) noted similarities between Beard’s description of “jumping” and a recently published description of Siberian “miryachit” (meaning “to act foolishly”) (Hammond, 1884). Several US Navy officers had observed an affected Siberian ship’s steward while on the Ussuri River in southeastern Siberia in 1882. The steward was afflicted by echopraxia, echolalia, and excessive startle, but without reported automatic obedience or actual jumping; he was unable to resist imitating the grunts, shouts, or pounding on the bulkhead intentionally produced by the crew and passengers to provoke his behavior. Unlike Beard, who had personally examined jumpers, Hammond did not make his own personal observations of miryachit.

Hyperekplexia

Hyperekplexia or “startle disease” was described in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and is characterized by generalized hypertonia and hypokinesia in infancy, followed by an exaggerated startle response to unexpected stimuli, gait difficulties, frequent falls without loss of consciousness, nocturnal myoclonus, and increased frequency of hip dislocations and inguinal hernias (Suhren et al., 1966; Anderman et al., 1980; Kurczynski, 1983). An autosomal dominant pattern of transmission was recognized in a pedigree spanning five generations by Suhren et al. (1966). In the 1990s, mutations in the α_1 subunit of the glycine receptor were identified (Shiang et al., 1993). Subsequently, both autosomal dominant and autosomal recessive forms were recognized, with mutations affecting the presynaptic glycine transporter-2, the α_1 and β subunits of the glycine receptor, and other postsynaptic glycinergic proteins including gephyrin and RhoGEF collybistin.

TICS

Tics are involuntary, rapid, non-rhythmic, stereotyped movements that are episodically present and occur on a background of normal movements. Tics can be categorized as motor (e.g., brief movements) or vocal (e.g., abnormal sounds produced by moving air through the nose, mouth, or throat) (The Tourette Syndrome Classification Study Group, 1993). French physician Jean Itard (1775–1838) offered the first clear description of tic disorders in 1825 (Itard, 1825), a report later cited by Gilles de la Tourette (1885), who included Itard’s case in his larger series of nine cases. Tics were also recognized by French physician Armand Trousseau (1801–1867), who wrote:

Non-dolorous tic consists of abrupt momentary muscular contractions more or less limited as a general rule, involving preferably the face, but affecting also neck, trunk, and limbs. Their exhibition is a matter of everyday experience. In one case it may be blinking of the eyelids, a spasmodic twitch of cheek, nose, or lip; in another, it is a toss of the head, a sudden, transient, yet ever-recurring contortion of the neck; in a third, it is a shrug of the shoulder, a convulsive movement of diaphragm or abdominal muscles, – in fine, the term embodies an infinite variety of bizarre actions that defy analysis. These tics are not infrequently associated with a highly characteristic cry or ejaculation—a sort of laryngeal or diaphragmatic chorea—which may of itself constitute the condition; or there may be a more elaborate symptom in the form of a curious impulse to repeat the same word or the same exclamation. Sometimes the patient is driven to utter aloud what he would fain conceal. (Trousseau, 1873, p. 267 quoted by Meige and Feindel, 1907, p. 27).

Au41

Tics gained wider recognition late in the 19th century, after Charcot presented cases before his classroom audience (Charcot, 1887/1987). Tics occur as a required diagnostic feature of Tourette syndrome (see below), but can also occur in a wide variety of neurologic disorders.

Gilles de la Tourette syndrome

In 1881, French neurologist Georges Gilles de la Tourette (1857–1904), house physician at the Salpêtrière under Jean-Martin Charcot (1825–1893), translated Beard's report of "jumping Frenchmen" (Gilles de la Tourette, 1881). In 1884, Gilles de la Tourette contrasted American jumping, Siberian miryachit, and a similar Malaysian condition called latah (Gilles de la Tourette, 1884; Lajonchere et al., 1996). He concluded that the three disorders were identical, and reported seeing similar cases on Charcot's service with hyperexcitability, motor tics, echolalia, and coprolalia.

Gilles de la Tourette's classic description of what Charcot later called *maladie des tics de Gilles de la Tourette* was written "with the help of Professor Charcot" and based upon a series of nine patients:

The condition which we will describe generally starts at a young age . . . Although the movements can vary in their form from one individual to another, they still maintain general characteristics which are the same in all subjects. One of these characteristics is the abruptness with

which the movements appear and another is their rapidity. Suddenly, and without warning, a grimace or contortion appears once, twice or several times. Then all is quiet. But soon afterwards (for generally the intervals between movements are quite close) new jerks appear. Importantly, most of these movements are limited either to the face, an extremity, or a combination of these two . . . Emotional upset caused by internal conflict or physical discomfort will aggravate both the frequency and the intensity of the abnormal movements. These patients are particularly sensitive to external stimuli: the least surprise will exaggerate the tics, as will strong emotional encounters . . . On the other hand, tics may be diminished and in fact completely suppressed by various factors . . . The movements completely cease during sleep . . . Patients can experience spontaneous periods of remission where incoordination becomes minimal, although never disappearing completely . . . These patients' mental state is perfectly normal . . . During a period of excitement, when the patient has an incoordinated movement, he will begin to shout an inarticulated sound—usually when the movement is at its height. It is often difficult to translate this sound—"hem," "ouh," "ouah," or "ah" . . . Our patients are echolalics, and this marks one of their major symptoms . . . Echolalia should not be considered in its most restricted sense, since these people also will imitate a gesture or an act . . . Not only do these patients say obscene words, but it seems that there can be a combination of echolalia and coprolalia . . . The progression of this condition, as much as we can tell, is slow and insidious . . . Could a patient eventually overcome the problem altogether, after many episodes of remission? We cannot be absolutely certain, but from our case histories, we would conclude that the condition never completely disappears . . . Let us recall first some of the fundamental symptoms: (1) this illness is hereditary; it is characterized by motor incoordination in the form of abrupt muscular jerks that are often severe enough to make the patient jump; (2) the incoordination can be accompanied by articulated or inarticulated sounds. When articulated, the words are often repetitions of words which the patient may have just heard. Such vocal imitation (echolalia) may have a physical corollary whereby the subject imitates an act or gesture that he has just seen; (3) among the expressions which the patient may repeatedly utter during one of his convulsions, some have the special

character of being obscene (coprolalia); (4) the physical and mental health of these patients is otherwise basically normal. The condition seems incurable and life long, with onset in childhood. (Gilles de la Tourette, 1885/1982; as translated by Goetz and Klawans, 1982, pp. 4–10)

Au42

Despite clinical overlap between “jumping” and Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, these entities are now recognized as distinct. In “jumping,” the key feature is an abnormal startle response, the abnormal reaction is always *provoked*, and tics are absent; whereas, in Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, the key feature is *spontaneous* motor and vocal tics, although patients with Gilles de la Tourette syndrome may also have an exaggerated startle response.

Gilles de la Tourette did not emphasize spontaneous tics as the essential feature of this syndrome, in part because of his attempt to establish a close relationship between the patients he reported and those with jumping, myriachit, and latah. Echolalia is no longer considered a major clinical feature, and a strict concordance between vocal tics and simultaneous motor tics is no longer accepted. Nevertheless, the modern definition of Gilles de la Tourette syndrome incorporates all the original diagnostic criteria proposed by Gilles de la Tourette (1885) with Charcot’s input (Kuschner et al., 1999): childhood onset, motor and vocal tics, natural waxing and waning, and chronicity.

Au43

Freudian psychodynamic and psychological theories of the etiology Gilles de la Tourette syndrome were dominant in the early-20th century. In the 1960s, the discovery that neuroleptic medications, particularly haloperidol, were useful in treating tic disorders provided support for a biological origin for tic disorders, and further supported an important role for dopamine in the pathophysiology (Seignot, 1961; Shapiro et al., 1973). A pathophysiologic role for dopamine has been further suggested by later findings in the 1970s and 1980s that (1) levodopa and dopamine agonists can induce or exacerbate tic disorders; (2) tardive tic disorders can occur after long-term neuroleptic treatment (suggesting facilitation by dopamine receptor hypersensitivity); (3) cerebrospinal fluid metabolites of dopamine (i.e., homovanillic acid) are selectively reduced (suggesting decreased dopamine turnover); and clinical improvement with haloperidol is associated with an increase in cerebrospinal fluid metabolites of dopamine (Klempel, 1974; Klawans et al., 1978; Butler et al., 1979; Cohen et al., 1979; Mitchell and Matthews, 1980; Singer et al., 1982).

Gilles de la Tourette syndrome has been recognized as familial since Gilles de la Tourette’s original report (Gilles de la Tourette, 1885). However, no clear pattern of inheritance and no specific gene defect have been

documented, although an autosomal dominant pattern with incomplete penetrance and variable expression is most widely accepted. Modern genetic studies of Gilles de la Tourette syndrome have been frustrating because of difficulties in defining phenotypes, and determining whether subjects with obsessive-compulsive symptoms or elements of attention deficit disorder should be considered as affected cases (Goetz et al., 2001e).

CONCLUSION

At the beginning of the 21st century, clinicians and neuroscientists can look with some satisfaction at the progress made in the field of movement disorders, particularly in the half century since Barbeau’s historical review in 1958 (Barbeau, 1958) – for example, improved understanding of how the basal ganglia modulate cortical motor function, improved understanding of the pathophysiology of several diseases (e.g., parkinsonism, Wilson’s disease, and Huntington’s disease), development of effective therapies (e.g., for Parkinson’s disease and Wilson’s disease), and effective prevention (e.g., for rheumatic fever and its effects, including Sydenham’s chorea), development of useful animal models (e.g., the MPTP model of Parkinson’s disease, and transgenic mouse, fly, worm, and cellular models of Huntington’s disease), and identification of genes for several disorders (e.g., Huntington’s disease, Wilson’s disease, some familial forms of torsion dystonia, essential tremor, and Parkinson’s disease). Still, much more work remains to be done to understand these disorders and treat them effectively. The rapid pace of increasing knowledge in this area, and the recent development of powerful new technologies (e.g., in the fields of neuroimaging, genetics, molecular biology, among others), suggest strongly that further significant progress can be anticipated.

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