

Historical sketches of the beginnings of the academic “Mental and Nervous Diseases” in Brazil, and European influences

Esboços históricos do começo acadêmico das “Doenças mentais e nervosas” no Brasil e influências européias

Marleide da Mota Gomes¹, Elias Engelhardt²

ABSTRACT

We present the common milestones of the neurology and psychiatry in Brazil, but, previously, they were summarized in the European matrix. The main psychiatric and neurological historical interceptions may be recognized by the terms neurology, psychiatry, alienism, neurosis and insanity; its organogenesis or socio- and psychogenetic basis; and its proximity or distance from internal medicine.

Key words: neurology, psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, history, neurosciences.

RESUMO

Apresentam-se as etapas comuns da neurologia e da psiquiatria no Brasil, porém, essas etapas foram previamente resumidas na matriz europeia. As principais intercepções históricas psiquiátricas e neurológicas podem ser reconhecidas pelos termos neurologia, psiquiatria, alienismo, neurose e insanidade, sua organogênese ou base social e psicogenética e a sua proximidade ou distância da medicina interna.

Palavras-Chave: neurologia, psiquiatria, neuropsiquiatria, história, neurociências.

The organic basis of psychiatry, or on the opposite direction, the socio- and psychogenetic basis, gives the historical forward or backward tropism to neurology. In this article, we comment on this journey in Brazil, but first we make a summary of the main confluent or differential historical hallmarks of neurology and psychiatry that led their way in Europe.

THE NEUROLOGICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC BOUNDARY

The construction of the modern neurology and psychiatry stems from the seventeenth century. The critical points of the parallel history of neurology and psychiatry are shown in Fig 1. *In short*, the field and development of both specialties came from internal medicine. Much of this initial development was studied by Bogousslavsky and Moulin¹ in

a paper that presents the historical backbone of the French neurology and psychiatry.

The emergence of neurology as an autonomous and prestigious field occurred in the late nineteenth century in Paris lead by Jean-Martin Charcot (1825–1893). A chair of *Clinical Diseases of the Nervous System* (1882) was established at the School of Medicine in Paris and occupied by Charcot. Previously (1875), a chair for *Clinic of Mental Illness and Diseases of the Brain* was devised, in the same School of Medicine, under Charcot's influence¹. However, the unity of Charcot's School took place around the study of hysteria, as hysterical women with somatic manifestations were commonly admitted to La Salpêtrière. Indeed, the alienists had always claimed their disinterest for this condition at the time. The alienists were trying to explain all cases of insanities as a result of brain lesions, but they mainly focused on patient management. However,

¹Neurologist, Associate Professor, Institute of Neurology Deolindo Couto, Epilepsy Program, School of Medicine, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil;

²Neurologist, Full Professor (retired), Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology Unit, Institute of Neurology/Institute of Psychiatry, UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil.

Correspondence: Marleide da Mota Gomes; Instituto de Neurologia Deolindo Couto, UFRJ; Avenida Venceslau Braz 95; 22290-140 Rio de Janeiro RJ - Brasil; E-mail: mmotagomes@acd.ufrj.br

Conflict of interest: There is no conflict of interest to declare.

Received 31 January 2013; Received in final form 18 April 2013; Accepted 25 April 2013.



I: In *Cerebri Anatome* (1664), a neuroanatomy text, Thomas Willis (1621–1675) coined the term neurology, but in its English edition (1681). II: Other term, for a time dubious, was neurosis (1784) presented by William Cullen (1710–1790) to refer to “disorders of sense and motion” caused by a “general affection of the nervous system”. It denotes all diseases of the nerves and muscles, and it suggests a physical cause. III: Philippe Pinel (1745–1826) published “*Medico-philosophical treatise on mental alienation or mania*” (1801). IV: Johann Christian Reil (1808) coined the term psychiatry: “medical treatment of the soul”. V: The term psychosis was coined by Ernst Feuchtersleben in 1845 to denote “mental disorder which affected the personality as a whole” and was a subcategory of the then much wider category of neurosis. The insanities, by contrast, were viewed as diseases of the mind and not generally of physical origin.

Fig 1. European milestones, mainly French and German, of the common history of psychiatry and neurology^{1-4,6}.

considering research and scientific teaching, the accomplishment was poor. Conversely, the influent School lead by Wilhelm Griesinger (1817–1868) carried out research based on anatomoclinical method²⁻⁵. Moreover, another group guided by Benedict-Augustin Morel (1809–1873) combined anatomoclinical (not obvious anatomical lesion) and philosophical methods to propose a degenerative theory for mental disorders^{1,3}.

The proximity of neurologists and modern psychiatrists led to the emergence of “neuropsychiatrists” from the nineteenth century until at least two-thirds of the twentieth century¹. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) promoted the theory of psychoanalysis and helped to define the modern concept of neurosis². By this time, most psychiatrists already believed that the insanities were of organic etiology, while the neuroses were of psychological origin — exactly the opposite of what was believed at the beginning of the nineteenth century³. However, some psychiatrists and neurologists still believed that the neuroses were caused by organic changes^{2,3}. Regarding

the psychiatric field, Freud and Emil Kraepelin (1856–1926) became the two most influential personalities in the early twentieth century⁶, and neuropsychiatry was an emerging discipline attracting the interest of many students of brain pathology, particularly in the German-speaking world⁶. After World War II, the division between neurology and psychiatry became explicit⁶.

THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY IN BRAZIL

Tracing back, the history of Brazilian neurology and psychiatry goes to 1831⁷. The milestones of this path are given in Box, unfolded in articles published by at least one of the author of the present paper^{5,7-9}. Early in the twentieth century, neurological and psychiatric institutions were formed around Hospices, and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, around the National Hospice for the Insane. This stream gave a heritage to the most influential Forerunner School of Psychiatry and

Chart. Timeline of the Brazilian neurology and psychiatry beginnings^{5,7-10}.

1831:	First Brazilian Psychiatric written text by José Martins da Cruz Jobim — “Loquacious insania” — caused by tuberculous meningitis
1852:	Hospice of Dom Pedro II founding
1881:	Polyclinic of Rio de Janeiro founding
1882:	Law Nº 3141 of October 30, 1882, <i>inter alia</i> , creates seven new Chairs, the seventh, of “Mental Diseases”; this reform was inspired on German universities and instituted a practical-experimental teaching model, specialization, and academic freedom in teaching
1883:	João Carlos Teixeira Brandão receives the Chair of Mental and Nervous Diseases, School of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro
1886:	Augusto Freire Maia Bittencourt receives the second Chair of Mental and Nervous Diseases (1886–1891), in Salvador-Bahia
1887:	João Carlos Teixeira Brandão becomes the director of the Dom Pedro II Hospice
1893:	Observation Pavilion at the National Hospice Alienated is created, and directed by a professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Nervous Diseases, School of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro, since the beginning
1898:	Juqueri Hospital opened in São Paulo, under the direction of Francisco Franco da Rocha
1903:	Juliano Moreira is appointed director of the National Hospice for the Insane, a position he holds until 1930
1905:	Juliano Moreira edits the “Brazilian Archives of Psychiatry, Neurology and Legal Medicine,” name changing later to “Brazilian Archives of Psychiatry, Neurology and Legal Medicine” (1908)
1907:	Brazilian Society of Psychiatry, Neurology and Legal Medicine is established in Rio de Janeiro, and lasted until 1948
1912:	João Carlos Teixeira Brandão assumes the Chair of Psychiatry, and Antonio Austregesilo Rodrigues de Lima, of Neurology, at the School of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro
1914:	Luiz de Carvalho Pinto accepts the second Chair of Neurology at the Medical School, Bahia
1914:	Alvaro Ribeiro de Barros is elected to the Chair of Neurology and Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Minas Gerais
1915:	Decree Nº 11530 of 1915, Article 42, unfolds the Chairs of Psychiatry and Neurology in an official way
1918:	Francisco Franco da Rocha occupies the Clinical Psychiatric and Neuriatric Chair, under contract with the São Paulo Government, from 1918 to 1923
1920:	Ulysses Pernambucano de Melo Sobrinho is appointed Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Pernambuco; he resigned in favor of Alcides Codeceira, who since 1915 directed the Chair
1921:	Henrique Britto de Belford Roxo assumes the chair of the Psychiatric Clinic of the School of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro, in the place of João Carlos Teixeira Brandão, who died in this year
1925:	Enjolras Vampré assumes the Clinical Psychiatric and Neuriatric Chair, São Paulo
1927:	Institute of Neurosyphilis at the National Hospital of Insane is established
1935:	Enjolras Vampré assumes the Chair of Neurology, School of Medicine of São Paulo
1938:	Ulysses Pernambucano de Melo Sobrinho is appointed Professor of Clinical Neurology, School of Medicine, Pernambuco; in 1930 he became director of the Hospital Tamarineira, later named after him: Psychiatric Hospital Ulysses Pernambucano
1938:	Neurobiology Journal is founded by Ulysses Pernambucano, as well as the Northeast Society of Neurology, Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene, later of Brazil, which was the basis of the Brazilian Association of Psychiatry, founded a time later
1943:	Launched the first number of Archives of Neuro-Psychiatry created by Osvaldo Lange, together with Adherbal Tolosa and Pauline Watt Long
1945:	Deolindo Augusto de Nunes Couto assumes the Chair of Clinical Neurology of the School of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro
1949:	Launched by Deolindo Couto the first number of Brazilian Journal of Neurology
1952:	Launched the Brazilian Journal of Psychiatry; it was preceded by the “Annals of the Institute of Psychiatry” with no regular periodicity (published from 1938 to 1950)
1962:	Brazilian Academy of Neurology is organized under the chairmanship of Deolindo Augusto Nunes Couto
1966:	Brazilian Association of Psychiatry is founded, in Pinel Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, and José Leme Lopes is elected as the first president

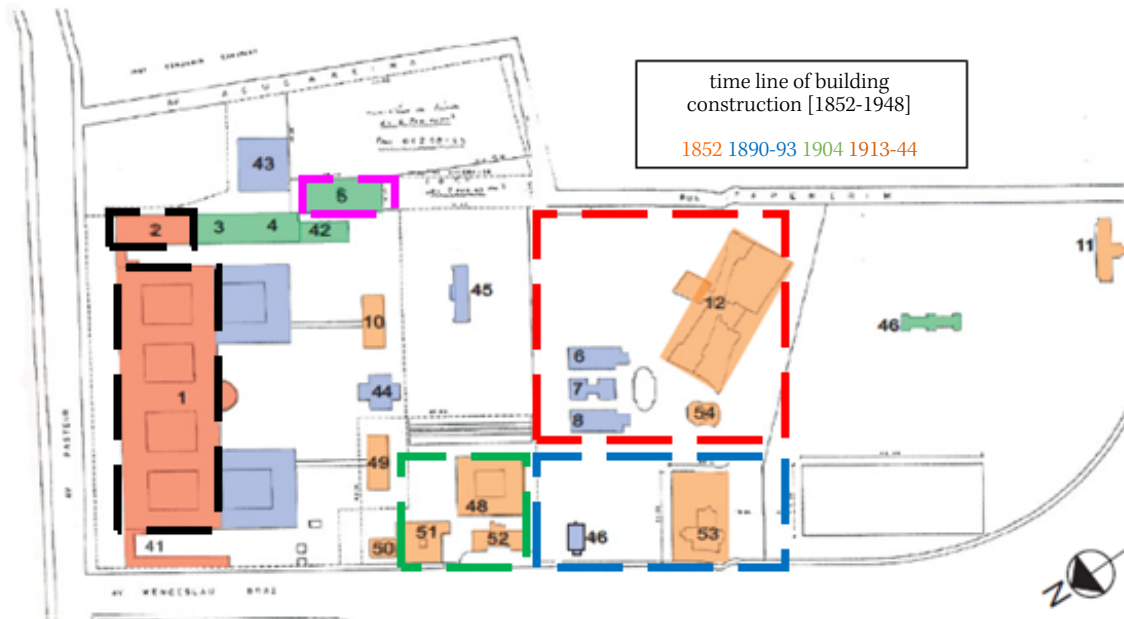
The original names in Portuguese (except personal names) were translated to English for a broader understanding.

Neurology in Brazil. The map of the area (Fig 2), presently the Campus of Praia Vermelha of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), demonstrates how close they were. The Brazilian neurology emerged mainly from internal medicine during the second half of the nineteenth century. However, on academic grounds as a chair, it was linked to psychiatry. Antonio Austregesilo Rodrigues de Lima, the first to hold a chair of neurology in Brazil, was strongly attached to the Brazilian psychiatric school⁸, in opposition to Charcot who had absolutely no connection with mental alienation (“psychiatry”) tradition and school¹. Despite their different profile,

the “neurological-looking” clinical manifestations of the hysterical patients impressed Charcot¹ and, in the same way, Austregesilo.

CONCLUSION

In Brazil, the cathedra of neurology came from academic psychiatry rather than internal medicine, in spite of the great influence of this last one on clinical practice and academic forum. However, the hospice central importance



The main structures of the old Hospice (National Hospice for the Insane), and its secondary buildings are visualized. New building areas, as those related to the Institutes of Neurology, Psychiatry and Psychology of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro-UFRJ, as well as Philippe Pinel Institute, are limited by dotted lines. Black dotted line: 1. University Palace [National Hospice for the Insane], 2. University Foundation José Bonifácio (FUJB) [Infirmary & Pavilion of the Unclean]. Lilac dotted line: 5. Institute of Psychology [Laundry]. Red dotted line: 6. Institute of Psychiatry - Medical residence [Magnan's observation pavilion]; 7. Institute of Psychiatry - Children and Youth Care & Rehab Center [H. Roxo's observation pavilion]; 8. Institute of Psychiatry - Children and Youth Psychosocial Care Center [Meynert's observation pavilion]; 12. Institute of Psychiatry - Infirmary & Administration [Rodrigues Caldas' pavilion]; 54. Institute of Psychiatry - [Torres Homem pavilion]. Blue dotted line: 46. Institute of Neurology [Morgue]; 53. Institute of Neurology [Neurological Clinic]. Green dotted line: 48. Philippe Pinel Institute [Peixoto pavilion]; 51. Philippe Pinel Institute [Ambulatory]; 52. Philippe Pinel Institute [Neuro-Syphilis]. They were also highlighted the following demolished buildings: 43-Bourneville pavilion (neuropsychiatric, children); 45-Griesinger Pavilion, Women epileptic pavilion; 65-Men epileptic pavilion (outside the UFRJ border).

Neurosciences main areas — dotted lines (presently [formerly]). (Source: Technical Office of the University – UFRJ).

Fig 2. The main structures of the old Hospice (National Hospice for the Insane), and its secondary buildings are visualized.

for mental health care and also for neurology faded in Brazil and worldwide. One major reason was the development of psychotropic drugs (neuroleptics and antidepressants), and penicillin, for the treatment of neurosyphilis, which favored

a move of the major psychotics to outpatient care¹⁰. Despite this dispersion, the area surrounding the ancient National Hospice for the Insane became an important center of the activities of Brazilian neurology and psychiatry.

References

1. Bogousslavsky J, Moulin T. From alienism to the birth of modern psychiatry: a neurological story? *Eur Neurol* 2009;62:257-263.
2. Køppe S. Neurosis: aspects of its conceptual development in the nineteenth century. *Hist Psychiatry* 2009;20:27-46.
3. Beer MD. The dichotomies: psychosis/neurosis and functional/organic: a historical perspective. *Hist Psychiatry* 1996;7:231-255.
4. Shterenshis MV. The position of nervous diseases between internal medicine and Psychiatry in the XIXth century. *Vesalius* 1999;5:67-71.
5. Gomes MM, Engelhardt E. Meynert and the biological German Psychiatry. *Arq Neuropsiquiatr* 2012;70:894-896.
6. Martin JB. The integration of neurology, psychiatry, and neuroscience in the 21st century. *Am J Psychiatry* 2002;159:695-704.
7. Gomes MM, Engelhardt E, Chimelli LC. The first Brazilian Neuropsychiatrist, José Martins da Cruz Jobim, tuberculous meningitis and mental disease. *Arq Neuropsiquiatr* 2013;71:191-193.
8. Gomes MM, Cavalcanti MT. National hospice for the insane and the Brazilian Neurology in the beginning of the 20th century. *Arq Neuropsiquiatr* 2012;70:823-825.
9. Gomes MM, Cavalcanti JL. The Brazilian Neurology centenary (1912-2012) and the common origin of the fields of neurology and psychiatry. *Arq Neuropsiquiatr* 2013;71:63-65.
10. Lucena J. Raízes e tendências da psiquiatria no Brasil. *Rev Neurobiologia* 1978;41(Suppl):S5-S48.