closed the climax to the clinical story, fascinated the large audi-
ences which unfailingly crowded his Wednesday afternoon clinics.
Inherent in such teaching is a dogmatism and overemphasis which
occasionally crept into his writing. Few would accept his general-
izations regarding the constant defect in maturation of the pyrami-
dal system in all cerebral diplegias, or his insistence upon the ab-
sence of infectivity of poliomyelitis after the onset of the paralytic
phase. Yet by such categorical statements he continually stimu-
lated further thought and investigation. There was some subtle
quality by which he could demolish false dogma without setting
up another equally false.

Without doubt Collier did more to mold medical opinion and
contributed more to the betterment of clinical neurological ability
of internists in general than any other man of his time.

SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS                     D. DENNY-BROWN

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JOSEPH JULES DEJERINE (1849–1917)

"In PARIS, you always can advance yourself by work and
enthusiasm. You don't need any 'strings.' You are the prod-
uct of your work." These words of Jules Dejerine* were borne out
by his own career.

*According to Dejerine's daughter (Mme. le Dr. Sorrel-Dejerine), the name is not
Déjerine or Déjerine.
This young Frenchman was born and raised in the provincial atmosphere of Geneva, Switzerland, where his father was a carriage proprietor. In school in earlier years Joseph Jules was better known as a boxer and swimmer, and for his fishing on Lake Léman, than for his academic accomplishments, but all this changed when he became attracted to biology and comparative anatomy. In 1874, when twenty-two years old, he decided that he should pursue his clinical studies in Paris. He set out for that great metropolis in a third-class compartment, with no more than a 

Portrait, courtesy of Mme. le Docteur Sorrel Dejerine, Paris, France.
brief introduction to Vulpian given him by Prévost, and arrived in the midst of the turmoil created by war and revolution. Unswervingly he set out to reach his goal and was to prove Vulpian’s most distinguished pupil.

His career was punctuated by appointments to high position and a succession of brilliant works, connected both with the Salpêtrière and the Bicêtre. As a climax he was elected, in 1910, Professeur de clinique des maladies du système nerveux à la Faculté de Médecine.

Dejerine’s masterpieces include his studies on *nervotabès périphérique,* progressive muscular dystrophy (with Landouzy), Friedreich’s disease (with André-Thomas), progressive hypertrophic interstitial neuritis (with Sottas and André-Thomas), olivoportocerebellar atrophy (with André-Thomas), and the thalamic syndrome (with Roussy—it was, above all, Dejerine who discovered the role of the thalamus in hemianesthetic syndromes). Perhaps the most lasting achievements were his *Anatomie des centres nerveux* (Paris, Rueff, 1890–1901) and *Sémiologie des affections du système nerveux* (Paris, Masson, 1914). He was as modern as many today in his view that the mesencephalic reticular formation continues forward in the diencephalon to the septal region. Further, Dejerine was one of the pioneers in the study of localization of function in the brain, having first shown, with Viallet, that word blindness may occur as the result of lesions of the supramarginal and angular gyri. Among his pupils were Roussy, Bernheim, André-Thomas and Alajouanine.

Although Dejerine is best known for his contributions in the field of organic neurology, his interest in functional disorders of the nervous system was also keen, and was greatly stimulated by his friendship with Paul Dubois of Bern. His vacations always brought him back to the land of his birth, to his place at Thalgut near Bern, where his simple tastes and fondness for the rustic life found complete satisfaction. Robert Bing (1878–1956), in his warm-hearted tribute to Dejerine, tells that during this period Dejerine developed many of his ideas of psychotherapy which were applied by him with such remarkable success. Later on, Dubois’s and Dejerine’s views began to diverge, the latter insisting that the personality of the therapist was of extreme importance.

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In the ward to the others was a simple, direct woman with eyes that were so patient depart her dreams. A certain slang the audience. It was not here to be a.

Life with Dejerine on the Société N. and the discuss had their glove.

Dejerine on (1859–1927), a Cisco family, was in Paris, and in the first woman (1887), in the Bert, then Miss presented the comparable ad hours of Woe vice of an army his work both in.

It was most the Neurological C. Dejerine’s birth by André-Tho...
He told his students: "It is rare that you will be able to use subtle logic; it is your heart that carries you along—if I may express myself thus—and much more than your reason. In man, emotion is almost everything and reason very little."

In the wards made famous by Charcot, it was inspiring to me as to the others who were in his service in 1900–01 to note the earnest, simple, direct way in which Dejerine explained the basis of symptoms and the encouragement that he gave his patients. In the out-patient department he was equally effective. On one occasion, a young woman was being examined and her maladjustment to life was discussed with great frankness. The question arose of her relations with her lover, who was present with her. She described one of her dreams in which a phallic symbol played a prominent part. A certain slang word she used brought forth a hearty laugh from the audience. The professor informed the audience that they were not here to be amused.

Dejerine was always stimulating. At the meetings of the Société Neurologique of Paris the presentations were terse and the discussion at times tinged with biting sarcasm. Speakers had their gloves off.

Dejerine owed much to his wife, Augusta Marie Klumpke (1859–1927), one of the brilliant sisters of a famous San Francisco family, whom he married in 1888. She had studied medicine in Paris, and through intellect, courage and persistence, became the first woman to receive the title of "interne des hôpitaux" (1887), in the face of great opposition, finally overcome by Paul Bert, then Minister of Public Instruction. The Dejerine marriage presented the spectacle of two intellectual giants collaborating and inspiring each other. Only the Curies and the Vogts could boast of comparable achievements. When Dejerine died during the dark hours of World War I, having spent himself in the exhausting service of an army hospital, it was his wife who carried on the bulk of his work both in practice and in research.

It was most fitting for the members of the Fourth International Neurological Congress (Paris, 1949) to celebrate the centennial of Dejerine's birth, to hear at the Sorbonne a discourse on Dejerine by André-Thomas, to wear the medallion struck off in his honor,
and to join with his daughter, Mme. le Dr. Sorrel-Dejerine, in laying a wreath on his grave.

EDWIN G. ZABRISKIE

References


AMAND DUCHENNE (1806–1875)

Duchenne "de Boulogne" (to distinguish him from Duchesne de Paris) was one of the greatest clinicians of the nineteenth century. No better proof of this exists than Charcot's statement that Duchenne was his master.

Duchenne was descended from a family of fishermen, traders and sea captains who had resided in Boulogne-sur-Mer since the beginning of the eighteenth century; his character, mind, and physical features were said to bear the stamp of the Boulognese.