References


OCTAVE LANDRY (1826–1865)

Jean Baptiste Octave Landry de Thèzillat was born and brought up in Limoges. His uncle, Dr. de Thèzillat, a neurologist and psychiatrist, did much to influence him in his decision to study medicine. In 1850 Landry became externe des hôpitaux in Paris. When cholera swept into the Département de l'Oise, decimating its population, Landry distinguished himself as a volunteer. A medal commemorating the gratitude of the people of the Oise was struck for him on his return to Paris.

He became interne under Sandras and Gubler at the Hôtel-Dieu and Hôpital Beaujon. In 1852, while still an interne, he brought forward evidence that movements, both passive and active, are dependent on afferent impulses from muscles―"sens de l'activité," he called it.1 Thus his work anticipated the similar studies by Duchenne by three years, of Bellion's2 by two, as has been brought out so well by Bastian.3 His independent description in 18554 of ataxia in posterior column disease was as graphic and true as Romberg's in 1851.

Landry's celebrated memoir on ascending paralysis appeared in 1859,5 simultaneously with the first volume of his Traité complet des paralysies (Paris, Masson). The memoir, his greatest literary legacy to medicine, dealt with ten cases of this mysterious malady, five of which had been under his care. The greatness of Landry's report consists not only in the precision of his observations and the clarity with which he set them down, but in his contention that the disorder could manifest itself in three ways: as an ascending paralysis without sensory signs or symptoms, as an ascending paralysis with concomitant ascending anesthesia and analgesia, and as a progressive generalized disorder characterized by paralysis and sen-

GRADUALLY, LANTRY'S NAME CAME TO BE ASSOCIATED SOLELY WITH THE SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS.

Although Lanty's name was given prominence in the field of neurology, it was a young and energetic physician, Dr. Ernest Cauvin, who first tied Lanty's name to the newly developing field of neurology. Cauvin's work on the pathology and treatment of diseases of the nervous system was so influential that his name became synonymous with the study of neurological disorders.

However, Lanty's name was later brought into disrepute when it was discovered that Lanty had plagiarized the work of his former teacher, Dr. Guillaume-Benjamin Duchenne. Duchenne's work on the anatomy of the nervous system was so advanced that it had a profound impact on the development of neurology. Lanty's plagiarism caused a scandal in the medical community and led to his being stripped of his medical degree.

In the face of this controversy, Lanty attempted to revive his reputation by writing a memoir of his life and work. However, his efforts were in vain, and his name became associated with the growth of neurological disorders in the 19th century. Today, Lanty's name is remembered as a symbol of the struggle for recognition and the importance of ethical standards in science.