myocardial degeneration, he came every day to the laboratory, spending some time with each pupil, treating everyone with the same personal interest and unequalled charm, whether a famous foreign scientist or an undergraduate. He was exceedingly fond of classical music. A confirmed collector, he acquired not only antique clocks and rare books, but also such oddities as microtome sections of various sausages. Virtually every Viennese neurologist of importance spent some time in his laboratory—for instance, von Economo, von Frankl-Hochwart, Karplus, Redlich, Schlesinger and Spitzer. His outstanding and most devoted student and successor was Otto Marburg, who was director of the institute until 1938. Then followed Otto Gagel (1938–45), then Hans Hoff (1949–59), then Franz Seitelberger, who was appointed in 1959.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  Ernest A. Spiegel

References


Arnold Pick (1851–1924)

Pick was born of German-Jewish parents in the small town of Velké Meziříčí, in Moravia. During his course in medicine at Vienna, he was student assistant to Meynert. After graduation in 1875, he became assistant to Westphal in Berlin. Wernicke, at the time, was also with Westphal. All three—Meynert, Westphal and Wernicke—exerted an important influence on Pick's subsequent work on aphasia, that great meeting place of three painstaking methods: the verbatim psychiatric interview, the neurological, and the pathological examinations. In all three he excelled, as he brought to them his sophistication, his common sense, and his unending devotion to detail.

Arnold Pick became physician to the Landesirrenanstalt ("Katefinky") in Prague in 1877, director of a newly opened hospital for mental diseases at Dobran in 1880, and six years later pro-

Portrait, courtesy of Prof. Dr. F. Jahnel and Col. H. Sprinz, M.C., U. S. Army, Munich, Germany.
fessor of Psychiatry (hence Neurology) at the German University of Prague. There also was a Czech university; both claimed their descent from the institution founded by Charles IV in 1348, the first of its kind in Central Europe. As a cultural and medical center, Prague was second only to Vienna. But among the University’s medical facilities the baroque psychiatric hospital, previously Saint Catherine’s Convent, was particularly overcrowded and ill adapted to the maintenance of even the most primitive hygiene. It also belonged to the Kingdom (land, or province) of Bohemia, while the academic teaching in both medical schools was run by the state (the Austro-Hungarian empire). The province and the state were frequently at odds, especially as the Czechs, who made up the majority of the population of Bohemia, were engaged in a struggle to break loose from the old monarchy. Coupled with the political and administrative stresses was the fact that German professors taught German students in the German language, and in the “German” half of the madhouse, while the majority of the patients everywhere spoke only Czech. Finding German assistants who could speak Czech was one of Pick’s problems. “The surgeon has an easy life,” he would say. “All he has to ask is ‘Does this hurt? ‘Boll to!’ To probe the patients’ minds, the way we are supposed to, we need quite a bit more.” Another problem was in getting neurological case material: for teaching purposes patients had to be “borrowed” from other departments.

Pick’s contributions to medical literature numbered approximately 350. He is best known for his work on presenile dementia due to lobar atrophy, since called “Pick’s disease.” The first of a series of publications on this disorder, discovered in the course of studying a patient’s aphasia, appeared in 1892.1 No small part of his prodigious effort was devoted to the study of neuropathology, on which he wrote a textbook.2 He was the first to put Wernicke’s ideas on aphasia on a sound pathoanatomical basis, and his studies on this subject 3 and on apraxia 4 and agrammatism 5 remain classics in this field. They brought him recognition as one of the greatest contributors to the knowledge of the localization of cerebral function.

From his daughter, Dora Pick Fuchs, we learned of his lively correspondence with Dejerine, Marie, Head, Raymond, Strümpell, Jolly, and above all, Hughtings Jackson. Pick, it is fair to say, discovered Jackson for Central European neurology; he particularly pursued the idea that aphasias not only lose part of their vocabulary but also the ability to construct their propositions according to logic and grammar. Otto Kahler was a close friend and associate. Together they had worked out what in 1880 became known as “Kahler-Pick’s law.” It concerned the respective arrangement of incoming posterior root fibers in the posterior columns of the spinal cord. An ingenious injection technique enabled them to demonstrate that the fibers at higher levels displace to progressively more medial planes that enter at lower levels.6 (Kahler also produced two classic descriptions: one on multiple myeloma—“Kahler’s disease”—and the other on syringomyelia.) 7 Pick’s interdisciplinary interests are shown by the fact that many of his best friends were colleagues outside the medical school; Ernst Mach, the famous physicist and experimental psychologist; the philosophers Friedrich Jodl and von Ehrenfels; the musicologist Guido Adler; the philologist Sauer; the biologist Steinach (of testicular rejuvenation fame); and Count Gleispach, the jurist. Pick was a great collector of books—German, French and English. At his home they reached to the ceiling and were piled on the floor. When he started on a vacation, some volumes of Goethe or Carlyle went into the large case full of medical books. He had a great love of music—Beethoven and the string quartet in particular.

Pick was a noble-minded, modest man—perhaps too modest—and the essence of calm serenity. His fearlessness in dealing single handed with the dangerously agitated psychotic—he was short and slender—was legendary, his skill in eliciting the delusional ideas from the most autistic and practically mute patients uncanny. The hurried stenograms were typed by a manic-depressive secretary—another inmate. Active to the end, Pick died from sepsis following the operation for a bladder calculus.

References

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KAROLY SCHAFFER (1864–1939)

The centenary celebration held in Budapest honoring Schaffer is not long past. All his energy had been harnessed for science. He was reserved, austere, stern, had a deaf ear for jokes and small talk. He kept social contacts to a minimum; his closest associates would receive an invitation for dinner twice a year—once in winter, to the family home in the center of Budapest, once in summer, to their small villa on the right bank of the Danube. As to music, Schaffer’s silver-stained sections were his “visual concerts”; the spectacles of nature he appreciated only under the microscope. In poetry, however, he found a deep interest; in Goethe’s works he was particularly well oriented. Sketching and sculpture were household themes, his father having been a sculptor whose work can still be admired in the Palais Károlyi and the Serbian Church on Váci utca in Budapest.

Károly Schaffer (Kar. in the German literature, Charles in the West) was born in Vienna but spent his youth in Budapest. Here he studied medicine, graduating in 1888. The faculty happened to be neurologically oriented: Joseph von Lenhossek wrote memorably on the microscopic anatomy of the medulla oblongata, Victor von Mihálikovics on neuroembryology, Andreas Högys on the vestibular system. Four of their students, too, became known in neurology: Ernest Jendrassik for his work on reflexes and hereditary diseases, Michael von Lenhossek (Jr.)\(^5\) as one of the pioneers of the neuron theory, Stephen von Apáthy as one of its most passionate opponents, and Schaffer. In the summer Schaffer would proceed to Vienna to attend Meynert’s course, which undoubtedly influenced him in his approach to psychiatric matters through neuropathology.

Soon after Schaffer became assistant at the Psychiatric Clinic in Budapest he spent several months in Weigert’s laboratory at Frankfurt-am-Main and came to know Edinger well. “Privatdozent” in 1898, and head of the neurological service and of an outpatient department from 1895, Schaffer was made ausserordent-

Portrait, courtesy of Prof. Stephen Környey, Pécs, Hungary.