Reappraisal of Rasmussen’s syndrome with special emphasis on treatment with high doses of steroids


NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Pierre Joseph Pelletier (1788-1842) and Jean Bienaime Caventou (1795-1887)

The French chemist Pelletier’s major work was the investigation of drugs, which he began in 1809. Later he worked with the pharmacist and organic chemist Caventou. Their collaborative studies, which began in 1817, included the isolation of strychnine from nux vomica (1818), caffeine (1821), and quinine from cinchona bark (1820). It was not until 1936 that Wolff reported on the effectiveness of quinine in relieving myotonia. Later, in 1955, Geschwind and Simpson noted the “quinine-like” action of procainamide on repetitive firing of cardiac muscle and suggested that it might be effective in combating myotonia.

Caventou, an expert in toxicology (Professor of Toxicology at the Ecole de Pharmacie (1835-1860)), also reported on cases of arsenical poisoning. Philatelically both were honoured by France in 1970 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of quinine (Stanley Gibbons 1870, Scott 1268). Pelletier and Caventou are regarded as the founders of alkaloid chemistry. Caventou’s early successes were not repeated in later life. After Pelletier’s death in 1842 Caventou published nothing further.

L F HAAS

Downloaded from http://jnnp.bmj.com/ on October 14, 2017 - Published by group.bmj.com
Pierre Joseph Pelletier (1788-1842) and Jean Bienaime Caventou (1795-1887).

L F Haas

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1994 57: 1333
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.57.11.1333

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/57/11/1333.citation

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/