- 12 Duncan R, Patterson J, Hadley DM, *et al* CT, MR and SPECT imaging in temporal lobe epilepsy. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1990;53:11-15.
- 13 Duncan R, Patterson J, Hadley DM, Bone I, Wyper D. SPECT in temporal lobe epilepsy: ictal and interictal studies. *Current problems in epilepsy*, vol 6. London: Libbey. 1990.
- 14 Valmier J, Touchon J, Daures P, Zanca M, Baldy-Moulinier M. Correlations between cerebral blood flow variations and clinical parameters in temporal lobe epilepsy: an interictal study. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1987;50:1306-11.
- 15 Valmier J, Touchon J, Baldy-Moulinier M. Interictal regional cerebral blood flow during non specific activation test in partial epilepsy. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1989;52:364-71.
- 16 Biersack HJ, Stefan H, Reichman K. Brain imaging with 99mTc-HMPAO SPECT, CT and NMR—results in epilepsy. *J Nucl Med* 1986;27:1028-32.
- 17 Podreka I, Lang W, Suess E, *et al* Hexamethyl-propylene-amine-oxime (HMPAO) single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) in epilepsy. *Brain topography* 1988;1:55-60.
- 18 Stefan H, Bauer J, Feistel H, *et al*. Regional cerebral blood flow during focal seizures of temporal and frontocentral onset. *Ann Neurol* 1990;27:162-6.
- 19 Grasso E, Ambrogio L, Cognazzo A, *et al*. Single photon emission computed tomography with 99mTc HMPAO in the study of focal epilepsy. *Ital J Neurol Sci* 1989;10:175-9.

Neurological stamp

Hermann Boerhaave 1668-1738

Hermann Boerhaave was the outstanding physician and teacher of his time. At Leyden he introduced bedside teaching in his 12 bed hospital. He also introduced the thermometer and the value of urine examination in clinical practice. He was the first to isolate urea, describe the sweat glands and to establish that smallpox was spread only by contact.

Students from many countries came to seek his advice. His writing had an enormous reputation in their day. His *Institutiones Medicae* (1708) and *Aphorismi de Cognoscendis et Curandis Morbis* (1709) were enormously successful, and were published in many editions and translated into many languages. The method of instruction he introduced at Leyden became a model for Europe and later his pupils were to influence the teaching in Vienna, Germany and Britain.

Boerhaave described a neurological case of great interest in functional localisation. A beggar in Paris begged for money with his calvarium. How the skull cap had been removed is not specified but the beggar was a one man physiological laboratory. For a few coins he would allow the occipital area over his boney deficit to be pressed. The sparks and flashes of light experienced were described. For a larger amount of money, the benefactor could press on the brain more forcibly so that the beggar would drop unconscious to the ground.

Boerhaave was the first doctor to be honoured on a stamp for his medical works. Among the great physicians who studied under him were: the scientist van Haller, founder of the University of Gottingham; van Swieten, founder of the old Vienna School and Carl Linné (Linnaeus) of Uppsala, founder of the Linnaean system of classification. Haller called Boerhaave “communis

europae praeceptor”—the common teacher of Europe.

This stamp was issued by The Netherlands in 1928 (Stanley Gibbons 375a, Scott B107).

L F HAAS