(see Refs 19–22) but also apply to the rhythm generation which underlies extremely simple, stereotyped, and repetitive voluntary movements.

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Neurological stamp

Luigi Galvani (1737–98)

Luigi Galvani, the anatomist, physician and physiologist who discovered 'animal electricity', came from Bologna. The galvanometer, which was invented by Andre Ampère (1775–1836), was named after Galvani as was the process of covering steel with a layer of zinc (galvanism).

Galvani observed that static electricity that was stored in a Leyden jar caused dissected frogs' legs to twitch. This occurred if they were placed on metal during a thunderstorm. He also noted that when dissected frogs' legs were hung from brass hooks on an iron railing, the muscles contracted when they came into contact with the iron. Galvani concluded that the source of the electricity was in the muscles and nerves of the animals. His findings were later disproved by Alessandro Volta who by 1800 had constructed electric batteries consisting of two different metals in an electrolytic salt solution. Volta established that the source of the electricity in Galvani's experiment had been two different metals with the animals' body fluids acting as the conducting medium. Galvani's observations were, however, the starting point of electrophysiology.

Galvani was honoured with this Italian stamp in 1934 on the occasion of the First International Congress of Electro-Radio-Biology (Stanley Gibbons 423, Scott 330).

L F HAAS