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NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Wilhelm Griesinger (1817-68)

Griesinger's great contribution to psychiatry was his recognition that there were certain different categories of mental disease. He considered that the brain was responsible for mental disease and that mental illness had a definite physical basis. In 1845 he published his *Pathology and therapy of psychic disorders*, which accurately described clinical syndromes based on pathological studies and psychological analyses. Griesinger succeeded Romberg as Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin University in 1865. In 1868, the year of his death, he founded the *Archiv Für Psychiatrie*, known also as *Griesinger's Archives*. Apart from his work in psychiatry, between 1857 and 1864 he published monographs on infectious diseases in which he discussed typhus, typhoid, relapsing, and malarial fevers. Griesinger's disease is ancylostomiasis or hook worm disease.

He is also remembered eponymously by Griesinger's sign, the oedematous swelling behind the mastoid process occurring with thrombosis of the transverse sinus. Griesinger also contributed to the muscular dystrophies and the clinical features were summarised in his monograph of 1865. Duchenne dystrophy was also known as



Duchenne-Griesinger disease but it was Duchenne who initially separated and classified various muscle diseases.

He was postally honoured in 1960 by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the Charité Hospital in Berlin where Griesinger had been appointed head of the neurological and psychiatric clinic in 1866 (Stanley Gibbons E531, Scott 254).

L F HAAS