ing clarity of the concepts employed in the study of consciousness, and the enlarging opportunities for the experimental understanding of this most elusive but most precious human attribute.

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**NEUROLOGICAL STAMP**

**Frans Cornelius Donders (1818–89)**

Donders was Professor of Physiology at Utrecht and was one of the pioneers of ophthalmology. He spoke English, French, and German. His great work on *The anomalies of refraction and accommodation* was published, not in Dutch, but in English by The New Sydenham Society in 1864. In this work he differentiated various errors of refraction and indicated how they might be corrected. His work on the anomalies of refraction and accommodation gave a scientific basis for the use of glasses. Donders was one of the main reformers of ophthalmology in the 19th century who established the scientific foundations for emmetropia, myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism and convergence. While impatiently waiting for one of Helmholtz's ophthalmoscopes, he invented one himself. Donders' book about anomalies of refraction and accommodation rank with Helmholtz's *Handbook of physiologic optics* and von Graefe's contribution to glaucoma.

Donders was also the first investigator to study the cerebral circulation in a living animal. He observed (1850) pial vessels through a sealed glass window in the calvarium and variations in the calibre of pial vessels in different states, especially during asphyxia, when these vessels were significantly dilated. He wrote on metabolism as being a source of heat in animals and plants and made important contributions to the physiology of speech (1864–70).

He was honoured with a stamp by The Netherlands in 1935 (Stanley Gibbons 7449, Scott B79).