A Short history of Epilepsy

By

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History 2000BC to present times

- Babylonian and Assyrian text
- Ancient Greece
- Religious superstition & epilepsy during the middle ages
- History of anatomy and Physiology of Epilepsy
- History of Epilepsy Therapy
- History of Epilepsy Societies
- Genetics and Epilepsy
- Famous People with Epilepsy

Babylonian 2000BC

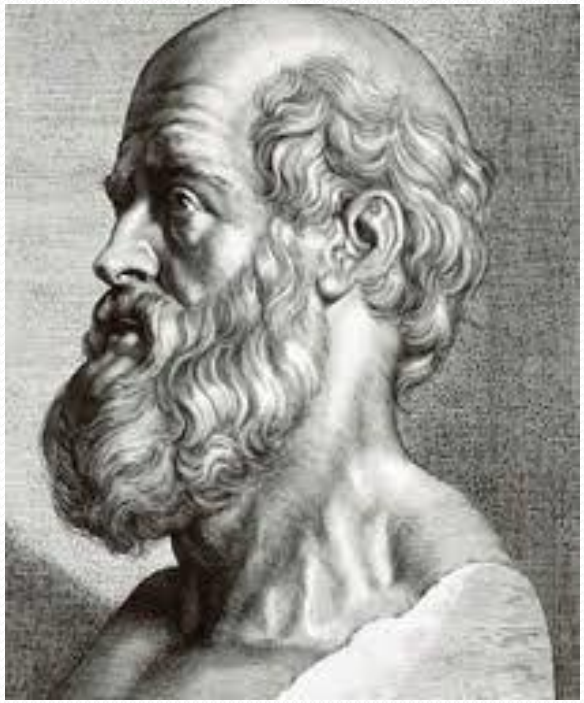
Oldest detailed accounts of Epilepsy are from Babylonian tablets from around 2000BC. This is details of how to treat people with epilepsy.

These tablets accurately record different types of seizure that we recognise today.

It also discusses the supernatural nature of epilepsy with seizures being associated with a god or a spirit. Described as the hands of sin. These spirits were usually evil and treatment was then largely a spiritual matter involving priests

Ancient Greece

- Ancient Greek medical texts of the Of the Hippocratic collection discuss the *Sacred* disease.
- Epilepsy first thought not to be religious or supernatural
- The first neurosurgery was performed
- Remedies for epilepsy during antiquity



Religious superstition and the middle ages.

- The word epilepsy originates from the Greek verb epilambanein which means “to seize, possess, or afflict

This is related to either the of the condition (e.g. Disease of the moon , scared disease , demonism) or to a figure (Hercules). The belief that the cure of the disease was of divine origin may have contributed to the use of the term “Scared disease.

Religious superstition and the middle ages.

Medieval physicians inherited beliefs from the Greco -Roman period.

Epilepsy was viewed with a fear and superstition.

People were labelled witches or warlocks

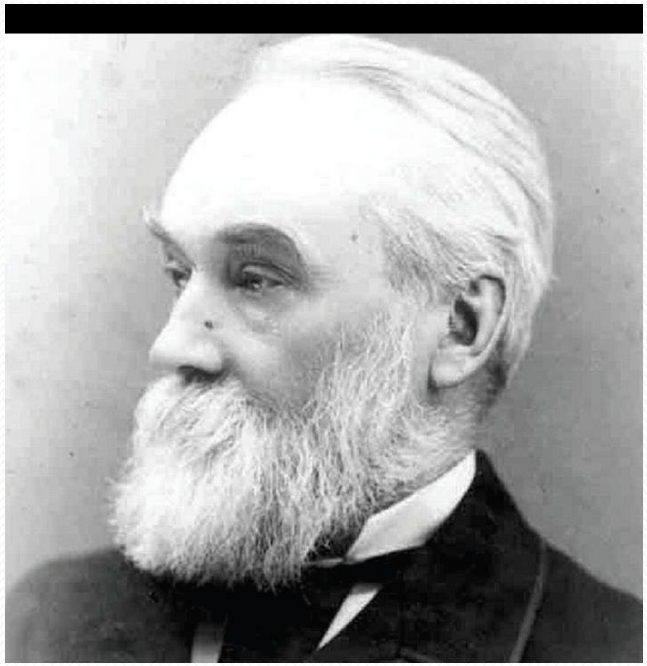
Epilepsy was regarded as a contagious disease

Epilepsy connected to astrology in the middle ages.

MALLEVS MALEFICARVM,
MALEFICAS ET EARVM
hæresim frameâ conterens,
EX VARIIS AVCTORIBVS COMPILATVS,
& in quatuor Tomos iustè distributus,
QVORVM DVO PRIORES VANAS DÆMONVM versutias, præstigiosas eorum delusiones, superstitiosas Strigimagarum cæremonias, horrendos etiam cum illis congressus; exactam denique tam pestiferæ sectæ disquisitionem, & punitionem complectuntur. Tertius praxim Exorcistarum ad Dæmonum, & Strigimagarum maleficia de Christi fidelibus pellenda; Quartus verò Artem Doctrinalem, Benedictionalem, & Exorcismalem continent.
TOMVS PRIMVS.
Indices Auctorum, capitum, rerùmque non desunt.
Editio nouissima, infinitis penè mendis expurgata; cuique accessit Fuga Dæmonum & Complementum artis exorcisticæ.
Vir siue mulier, in quibus Pythonicus, vel diuinationis fuerit spiritus, morte moriatur; Leuitici cap. 20.
LVGDVNI,
Sumptibus CLAVDII BOVRGEAT, sub signo Mercurij Galli.
M. DC. LXIX.
CVM PRIVILEGIO REGIS.

History of anatomy and Physiology of Epilepsy

- Hospitalisation started to become the norm 1772
- Epilepsy starts to be catigorised
- John H Jackson “Study of convulsions ” published
- Gower “ The border lands of Epilepsy” published



John Hughling Jackson 1835-1911
Study of convulsions

History of Epilepsy Therapy

- **Antiepileptic Surgery**
- **Drug Therapy**
- **The Idea of Ketogenic Diet**
- **The Technique of Vagus Nerve Stimulation**
- **Imaging Techniques in the Diagnosis of Epilepsy**

History of Epilepsy Societies

International League against Epilepsy founded 1909

Quarriers Village founded 1872 as a children's orphanage form which the epilepsy village was founded.

During world war one first national database on epilepsy in the USA along with the “American Epilepsy Society”

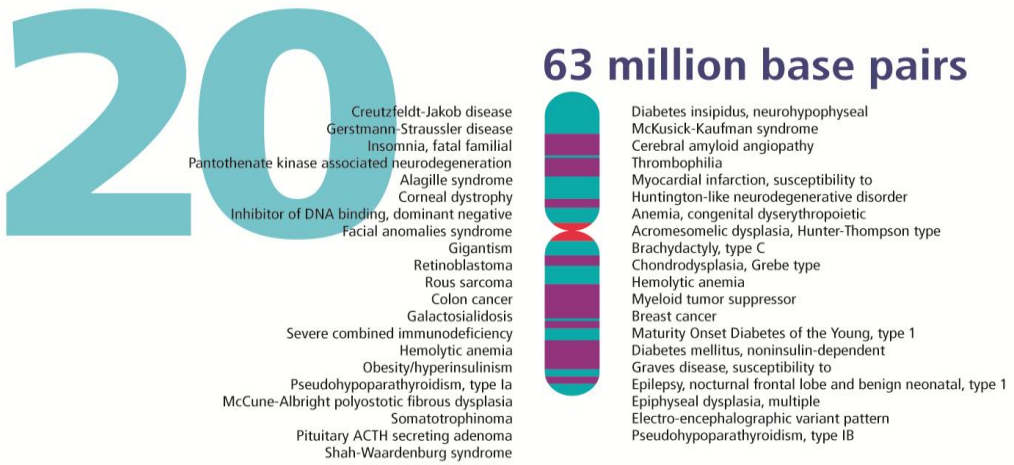
International Bureau for epilepsy formed 1960

1990 WHO Global Campaign against epilepsy.

Cottage 10 and Homelea (former home of William Quarrier)

Genetics and Epilepsy

- by Lundborg (1868–1943) connection between heredity and epilepsy
- Chromosome 20 and idiopathic epilepsy link by Leppert
- Genetic testing now common place in paediatrics.



Who are they?