

THE FALLING SICKNESS

A History of Epilepsy from the Greeks
to the Beginnings of Modern Neurology

OWSEI TEMKIN

Second Edition, Revised

THE JOHNS HOPKINS PRESS

BALTIMORE AND LONDON

Contents

Preface to Second Edition	vii
Preface to First Edition	ix

PART ONE: ANTIQUITY

I. EPILEPSY: THE SACRED DISEASE	3
1. The Concept of the Sacred Disease	3
2. The Magicians	10
3. Sacred Disease and Epilepsy	15
4. Physicians and Magic	21
II. EPILEPSY IN ANCIENT MEDICAL SCIENCE	28
1. The Clinical Picture	31
a. Etiology, 31. b. Definitions, 36. c. Aura, 37. d. The Epileptic Attack, 40. e. The Course of the Disease, 42. f. Prognosis and Complications, 44. g. Diagnosis, 47. h. Differential Diagnosis, 49.	
2. Theories	51
a. The Fifth and Fourth Centuries, 51. b. Third Century B.C.— Second Century A.D., 56. c. Galen, 60.	
3. Treatment	65
a. Indications and Aim of Treatment, 65. b. Methods and Theory of Treatment, 66. c. The Problem of Pharmacology, 78.	

PART TWO: THE MIDDLE AGES

III. EPILEPSY: THE FALLING SICKNESS	85
1. Names and Notions	85
a. Possession, 86. b. Lunacy, 92. c. The Falling Evil, 96.	
2. Cure and Prevention	102
a. Magic and Superstition, 102. b. Saints and Relics, 109. c. Infection, 114.	
IV. MEDIEVAL MEDICAL THEORIES	118
1. Early Middle Ages	118
2. Scholasticism	121

PART THREE: THE RENAISSANCE

V. THEOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND SOCIAL ASPECTS	137
1. The Theological Debate	138
a. The Debate on Possession, 138. b. The Debate on Witchcraft, 141. c. The Debate on Magic and Superstitious Treatment, 144.	
2. The Epileptic as a Prophet	148
a. Prophesying Epileptics, 148. b. Epilepsy and Prophetic Trance, 154.	

3.	Some Social Aspects	161
a.	Great Epileptics, 161.	
b.	Beggars and Cheats, 164.	
4.	Paracelsus and Hermetic Medicine	170
a.	Paracelsus, 170.	
b.	Allegories, 177.	
c.	Van Helmont, 181.	
VI.	BROADENING EXPERIENCE AND CHANGING THEORY	184
1.	New Observations	184
2.	New Theories	195
PART FOUR: THE GREAT SYSTEMS AND THE PERIOD OF ENLIGHTENMENT		
VII.	THE GREAT SYSTEMS	205
1.	Iatrochemists and Iatrophysicists	205
2.	Animism and Eclecticism	213
VIII.	THE ENLIGHTENMENT	220
1.	The Fight against the Supernatural and Occult.	220
a.	The Rationalistic Interpretation of Possession, 220.	
b.	The Revolt against the Occult, 227.	
c.	The Purging of Therapy, 232.	
2.	Pathology and Nosology	241
a.	Pathology, 241.	
b.	Nosology, 247.	
PART FIVE: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (1800-1861)		
IX.	FIRST PERIOD: 1800-1833	255
1.	The Hospitalization of Epileptics	255
a.	Terminology, 257.	
b.	Statistics, 260.	
c.	Psychiatric Studies, 265.	
2.	Anatomical Optimism and Pessimism	271
X.	SECOND PERIOD: 1833-1861	278
1.	The Reflex Theory	278
2.	Nosological Doubts	285
3.	Therapy	291
PART SIX: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY— THE AGE OF HUGHLINGS JACKSON		
XI.	JACKSON'S FORERUNNERS	303
1.	The Situation around 1860	303
2.	Jacksonian Epilepsy	305
a.	Bravais and Bright, 305.	
b.	Todd, Carpenter, and Wilks, 311.	
3.	The Dreamy State (Psychomotor Epilepsy, Temporal Lobe Epilepsy)	316
a.	Morel, Griesinger, Falret, 316.	
b.	Herpin, 324.	
XII.	JOHN HUGHLINGS JACKSON	328
XIII.	THE END OF THE FALLING SICKNESS?	347
1.	Idiopathic Epilepsy	347
2.	Epilepsy and Hysteria	351
3.	Crime, Religion, and the Epileptic Character	359
4.	The World of the Epileptic	370
	Epilogue	383
	Appendix I	391
	Appendix II	393
	Bibliography	397
	Index of Personal Names	445
	Index of Subjects	455