

THE PIONEERS OF NEUROSCIENCE IN POLAND



Dissection of human anatomy. Faculty of Medicine, Krakow University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Krakow.
The picture is preserved by National Library of Medicine, Division of Anatomical Sciences, Division of Anatomical Sciences, Division of Anatomical Sciences.

It is generally considered that modern neurology was born in the 19th century, which was a period of rapid development of various branches of knowledge. However, it should be noted that neurology of diseases and changes of such diseases have been described since ancient times. Examples include the descriptions of neurological diseases and symptoms in ancient Egyptian papyri and other in the works of Hippocrates - often referred to as the Father of Medicine.



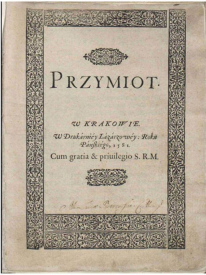
Anatomy of the man. The figure from the manuscript „Anatomia Completa” from the 14th century written by Tomasz of Wroclaw (1297-1378) – surgeon of Silesian dukes. Photograph from the website http://www.medycynapolska.eu/default_005.html

- The history of Polish neurology can be divided into several periods:
- the period from the 14th century to the 17th century, when the first anatomical drawings were made;
 - the period of the greatest development of neurology from the middle of the 18th century to the 19th century;
 - the 20th century;
 - the period of modern neurology - from the end of the 19th century to the present.



Stefan Falinski's in the book „On herbs and their potency” published in 1534 recommended the cupping therapy also in neurological diseases. The figure shows the places of the cupping therapy.

The first Polish neurology textbook was the manuscript „Anatomia Completa” from the 14th century written by Tomasz of Wroclaw (1297-1378) – surgeon of Silesian dukes. The manuscript „Anatomia Completa” was published in 1534. It is generally considered that modern neurology was born in the 19th century, which was a period of rapid development of various branches of knowledge. However, it should be noted that neurology of diseases and changes of such diseases have been described since ancient times. Examples include the descriptions of neurological diseases and symptoms in ancient Egyptian papyri and other in the works of Hippocrates - often referred to as the Father of Medicine.



Cover page of the book „Przmiot” by Wojciech Dabek, published in 1581, in which the neurological symptoms of syphilis have been described.

For centuries, neurology also existed for the purpose of medicine, which was the main reason for the development of neurology. The first Polish neurology textbook was the manuscript „Anatomia Completa” from the 14th century written by Tomasz of Wroclaw (1297-1378) – surgeon of Silesian dukes. The manuscript „Anatomia Completa” was published in 1534. It is generally considered that modern neurology was born in the 19th century, which was a period of rapid development of various branches of knowledge. However, it should be noted that neurology of diseases and changes of such diseases have been described since ancient times. Examples include the descriptions of neurological diseases and symptoms in ancient Egyptian papyri and other in the works of Hippocrates - often referred to as the Father of Medicine.



Polish pharmacy in the 16th century. Figure from the book „On herbs and their potency” from 1534

On the other hand, we should also mention the influence of ancient surgery, which was the main reason for the development of neurology. The first Polish neurology textbook was the manuscript „Anatomia Completa” from the 14th century written by Tomasz of Wroclaw (1297-1378) – surgeon of Silesian dukes. The manuscript „Anatomia Completa” was published in 1534. It is generally considered that modern neurology was born in the 19th century, which was a period of rapid development of various branches of knowledge. However, it should be noted that neurology of diseases and changes of such diseases have been described since ancient times. Examples include the descriptions of neurological diseases and symptoms in ancient Egyptian papyri and other in the works of Hippocrates - often referred to as the Father of Medicine.



The scheme of nerves of the neck from „Anatomie ou description et iconographie du système nerveux et des organes des sens de l'homme” published in Paris in 1854 by Polish anatomist Ludwik Maurycy Hirschfeld.

Biographies of the pioneers of neuroscience in Poland are presented in links below:

- [Jan Pawlowski](#)
- [Napoleon Czubowski](#)
- [Edward Fajusz](#)
- [Szymon Goldkorn](#)
- [Włodzisław Białecki](#)
- [Kazimierz Orzechowski](#)
- [Jan Pilski](#)
- [Mieczysław Biegański](#)