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ABSTRACT

Fyodor M. Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) was a famous Russian writer born 200 years ago, important for the psychological depth and dramatic structure of his novels. Epilepsy was important in his life and creative process. Moritz H. Romberg (1795-1873) and Armand Trousseau (1801-1867) were two well-known physicians at the time who dedicated themselves to neurology. Its notoriety extended beyond the medical-scientific area, as exemplified by Dostoievski's letter. Although the occurrence of the meeting was controversial,^{3,4} its intention denotes their prestige. Romberg, known as the father of clinical neurology

Palavras-chaves: exemplified, neurology, father

RESUMO

Fyodor M. Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) foi um famoso escritor russo nascido há 200 anos, importante pela profundidade psicológica e estrutura dramática dos seus romances. A epilepsia foi importante na sua vida e no seu processo criativo. Moritz



H. Romberg (1795-1873) e Armand Trousseau (1801-1867) eram dois médicos conhecidos na altura que se dedicavam à neurologia. A sua notoriedade estendeu-se para além da área médico-científica, como exemplificado pela carta de Dostoevski. Embora a ocorrência do encontro tenha sido controversa,^{3,4} a sua intenção denota o seu prestígio. Romberg, conhecido como o pai da neurologia clínica

Palavras-chaves: exemplificado, neurologia, pai

1 INTRODUCTION

Fyodor M. Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) was a famous Russian writer born 200 years ago, important for the psychological depth and dramatic structure of his novels. Epilepsy was important in his life and creative process.¹⁻³ In a letter to the contemporary novelist, Ivan Turgenev in 1863, apud Bhattacharyya, Dostoevsky wrote, " *Actually, I am going to Berlin and to Paris [...] for no other reason than to consult specialists on epilepsy (Trousseau in Paris, Romberg in Berlin).*"¹ This paper aims to hommage Dostoyevsky in his birth bicentennial and to raise issues related to Trousseau and Romberg regarding epilepsy.

2 METHOD

A comprehensive, critical and objective analysis of the current knowledge about Romberg and Trousseau roles on Neurology advance employing a narrative literature review.

3 RESULTS

Moritz H. Romberg (1795-1873) and Armand Trousseau (1801-1867) were two well-known physicians at the time who dedicated themselves to neurology. Its notoriety extended beyond the medical-scientific area, as exemplified by Dostoevski's letter. Although the occurrence of the meeting was controversial,^{3,4} its intention denotes their prestige. Romberg, known as the father of clinical neurology.^{5,6} His studies were immortalized in his Manual of Nervous Diseases in Humans (*Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten*)⁷, where he divides his findings into sensory and motor symptoms. He describes different forms of epilepsy, such as eclampsia, and seizures secondary to metastasis, vascular causes, fear,



"hysteria", kidney injuries, anaemia, syphilis, hereditary causes, and other neurological conditions, as neuralgias, psychogenic pain etc.⁶⁻⁸

Trousseau contributes to general practice and neurology. In his teachings, "Les Leçons cliniques de l'Hôtel-Dieu"⁹, he describes, for example, Trousseau's syndrome and Trousseau's signs ⁹. He highlighted epilepsy and that tuberculosis, syphilis, brain tumors could cause it and also almost all the types of epileptic attacks, such as so-called petit mal, grand mal, status epilepticus, focal seizures and gelastic epilepsy.⁹⁻¹¹. He recognized the importance of heredity on nervous disorders and a similarity of visceral aura to hysteria and that some organic alterations in the brain could be an effect, not the cause.

4 CONCLUSION

Romberg and Trousseau were important physicians in the development of neurology and their observations expanded knowledge of important diseases and built important pillars of understanding about epilepsy.



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