

## Book Review

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**Following Charcot: A Forgotten History of Neurology and Psychiatry** by Frontiers of Neurology and Neuroscience, Volume 29, 2011, S. Karger AG, Basel, 208 pp. Editor: J. Bougousslavsky

In this engaging volume, Bougousslavsky and colleagues document the life and times of Jean-Martin Charcot and his students, the many physicians he trained, the journals he founded and their widespread influence on the development of modern Neurology and Psychiatry in France and beyond. Written in a clear and easy style, the histories sparkle with the excitement of the times of these distinguished physicians whose eponymic signs and syndromes still resonate through Neurology: Babinski, Gille de la Tourette, Dejerine, Marie, Binet, and many others.

Charcot's seminal contributions to Medicine and Neurology, such as his reliance on the clinico-anatomic method, and his occupancy of the first endowed chair in Neurology merit a biographical review. For the student of the history of intellectual ideas, the attention paid to each student and many other later Neurologists and Psychiatrists influenced by Charcot, make this volume a outstanding value-added contribution to the history of Neurology and Psychiatry.

Perhaps the followers of Charcot are relatively "forgotten" as the title implies, such that this volume can be a handy reference meticulously documenting their origins, education, and accomplishments. It is fitting that this book of the history of these pioneering physicians, working before the advent of technological aids for the study of nervous system disorders is at home in a series related to Frontiers in Neurology and Neuroscience. This fascinating volume will delight historians of medicine, neurologists, psychiatrists, and basic scientists with its wealth of detail about Charcot and his colleagues set against the development of modern medicine and the political climate in late 19th and early 20th century France.

Alan Jay Lerner, MD  
*Department of Neurology*  
*Case Western Reserve University*  
*Cleveland, OH, USA*  
*E-mail: [ajl3@case.edu](mailto:ajl3@case.edu)*