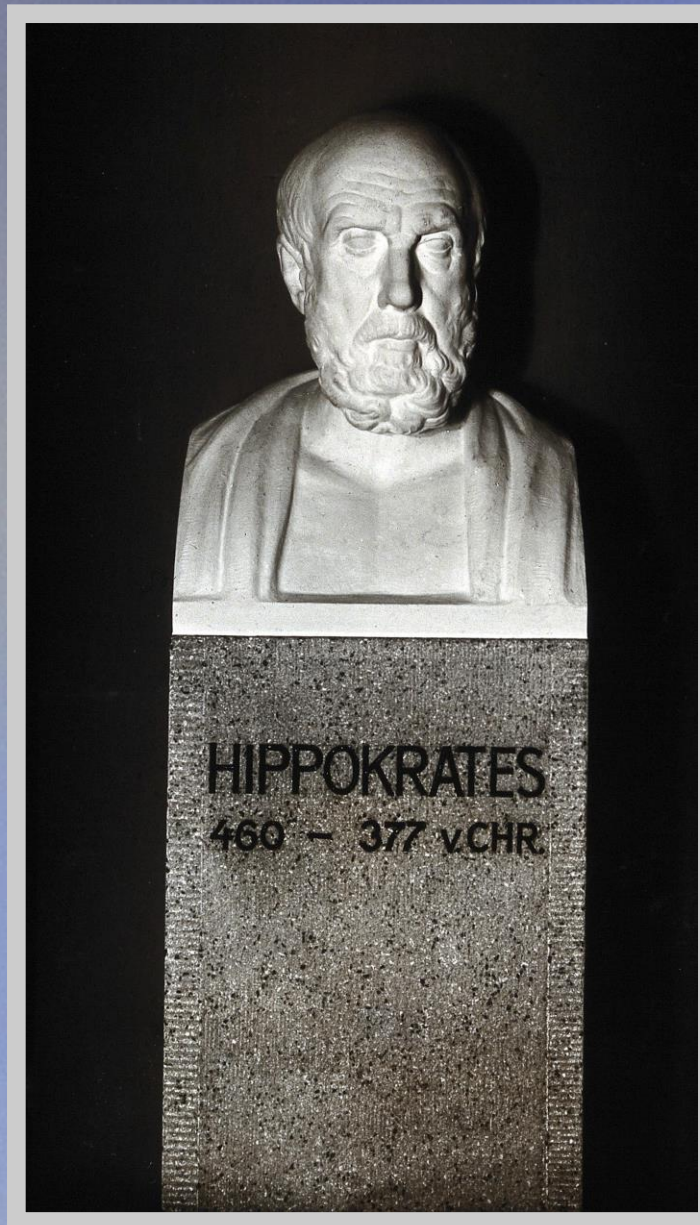


It was not until the end of the 19th century that a variety of methods for the diagnosis of mental illness, useful or not, began to appear. One of the most representative theories is psychoanalysis.

Nowadays, psychiatric assessment of a person typically begins with an exploration of previous medical history and examination. Further physical examinations and psychological tests are sometimes conducted.



Hippocrates. Photograph after a bust.

In ancient Greek mythology and epic poetry, "madness" was believed to be the punishment of God or demonic possession. Thus, Hera's method of punishing Hercules was to make him "mad".

It wasn't questioned until Hippocrates (460-377 BC) suggested that "madness" was caused by an imbalance of the humors. Madness became the subject of scientific study for the first time.

Hippocrates suggested that humors are the vital bodily fluids: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. For example, it was thought that depression was caused by excessive production of black bile (melaina chole). This was thought to be cured by restoring the balance of the bodily fluids, which could be achieved through a restrictive diet, excretion and bloodletting.

Through clinical practice, Hippocrates become the first person to identify the brain as the major control centre of the body.

In the 19th century a variety of theories and practices surrounding mental illness began to appear.

Jean-Martin Charcot (1825-1893) was an expert in neurology and psychiatry. He had a clinic at the Salpêtrière hospital in Paris. At that time the Salpêtrière combined what was termed a “lunatic asylum”, an institute for the mentally ill, with a home for elderly women, which Charcot described as a "living museum of pathology".

While he was working there, the epileptic patients were required to be separated from those thought “hysterical”, and the task was entrusted to Caharcot. He gave demonstrations on the different pathological states by hypnotising his patients and inducing them to enact the symptoms. His favourite subject for these demonstrations was called Blanche Wittmann, seen in this image.



Jean-Martin Charcot demonstrating hysteria in a hypnotised patient at the Salpêtrière. Etching by A. Lurat, 1888, after P.A.A. Brouillet, 1887. Pencil drawing.

How do you think it
would feel to be
treated in front of
an audience ?



In October 1885, Sigmund Freud (6 May 1856 – 23 September 1939) went to Paris on a three-month fellowship to study with Jean-Martin Charcot. Freud recalled his experience there as a catalyst that turned him towards the practice of medical psychopathology.

Since then, Freud has pioneered the method of treatment for mental disorders called “psychoanalysis”, which is a clinical method for evaluating and treating pathologies in the psyche through dialogue between a patient and a psychoanalyst.

Representing the growing interest and recognition of psychoanalysis, G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark University, sponsored a weeklong conference. This is remembered now as Freud’s only visit to America.

This image shows the American and international psychologists and psychoanalysts who attended the conference. Freud can be seen standing on the front row centre left.

October, 1885. Clark University. Photograph of psychologists and psychiatrists. *Front row, left to right: Franz Boas, E.B. Titchener, William James, William Stern, Leo Burgerstein, G. Stanley Hall, Sigmund Freud, Carl G. Jung, Adolf Meyer, H.S. Jennings. Second row: C.E. Seashore, Joseph Jastrow, J. McK. Cattell, E.F. Buchner, E. Katzenellenbogen, Ernest Jones, A.A. Brill, Wm. H. Burnham, A.F. Chamberlain. Third row: Albert Schinz, J.A. Magni, B.T. Baldwin, F. Lyman Wells, G.M. Forbes, E.A. Kirkpatrick, Sandor Ferenczi, E.C. Sanford, J.P. Porter, Sakyō Kanda, Hikoso Kaksie. Fourth row: G.E. Dawson, S.P. Hayes, E.B. Holt, C.S. Berry, G.M. Whipple, Frank Drew, J.W. A. Young, L.N. Wilson, K.J. Karlson, H.H. Goddard, H.I. Klopp, S.C. Fuller*