

## **The Medical Statues of Paris**

N. McIntyre

### **Summary**

*Many statues of doctors have been erected in Paris. Sadly, many bronze monuments were deliberately destroyed during the Second World War, including memorials to Claude Bernard, Broca, Charcot, Pean, Raspail and Ricord, and to Berlioz who was a medical student in Paris. Only those of Bernard and Berlioz were replaced after the war. Bronzes of Bichat, Clemenceau, Pinel and the Barons Larrey (Dominique Jean and Hippolyte - father and son) survived the cull, as did the stone monuments commemorating Servetus, Vulpian, Tarnier and Marey.*

### **Résumé**

*Une série de statues de médecins ont été érigées à Paris mais malheureusement, beaucoup de monuments en bronze vont être volontairement détruits pendant la seconde guerre mondiale, y compris ceux de Claude Bernard, Charcot, Pean, Raspail, Ricord et Berlioz qui fut aussi étudiant à Paris. Seulement, les statues de C. Bernard et Berlioz ont été remplacées. Les bronzes de Bichat, Clemenceau, Pinel et des barons Larrey (Dominique Jean et Hippolyte - père et fils) ont survécu comme les monuments en pierre commémorant Servet, Vulpian, Tarnier et Marey.*

### **Osier's impressions of Paris**

In 1909, in an article entitled «Impressions of Paris. I. Teachers and students» William Osier wrote - 'Asked the strongest single impression made on me here, I should reply: «The extraordinary reverence of the French. . . .The history of science is writ large in the city; in monuments, in buildings dedicated to the illustrious dead and in streets called by their names. There are more statues to medical men in Paris than in Great Britain and the United States put together;...» (1). The last statement was not correct, though true for individual cities like London, New York or Washington.

Unfortunately some of the statues which Osier might have seen in Paris in 1909 no longer exist. After the German occupation in June 1940 many were destroyed because, on 11th October 1941, the Vichy Government issued a law ordering the removal of «statues and monuments of copper alloys situated in public places and administrative locales in order to recycle the metallic components for industrial production." The stated intention was «to replace these metal monuments subsequently with ones of stone» (2).

*We7 McIntyre, Professor of Medicine, Royal Free and University College Medical School, Royal Free Campus, Rowland Hill Street, London, NW3 2PF, Great Britain.*

*\* Square brackets [] in the text indicate the Arrondissement in which the statue or monument was erected.*

A commission was set up to consider which were to be removed. It chose some sculptures to be «preserved because of their historic or aesthetic characters they included the bust of Joseph Capitan. Clemenceau's statue was in a second group whose fate was to be determined by the Undersecretary of Education. The list of monuments to be melted down was divided into eleven sections. Those in the first nine sections were removed by February 1942. Statues in the last two sections, including that of Pinel, were spared - probably because the manpower necessary for their removal was lacking at the time; this may also explain why many of the pedestals were not removed .(2)

The original statues of the following doctors disappeared from the Paris scene - Claude Bernard, Broca, Charcot, Marat, Metivier, Pean, Raspail, Renaudot and Ricord, together with that of Berlioz who had been a medical student in Paris. The only ones replaced by stone statues after the war were those of Bernard and Berlioz. Photographs of the statues of Broca, Charcot, Marat, Pean, Raspail and Renaudot, and of the original statues of Bernard and Berlioz, can be found in Hargrove's book *The Statues of Paris* (1989) .(2)

Falguiere's statue of the great neurologist Charcot (1825-93), erected in 1898, stood on the Boulevard de l'Hopital [13] near the Salpêtrière; that of Paul Broca (1824-1880), by Choppin, on the Boulevard Saint Germain [6]. Although their statues have gone, both men are remembered for their great contributions to medicine. Charcot created a great neurological clinic in Paris, providing classic descriptions of many diseases including hysteria, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and multiple sclerosis. Broca, a surgeon at the Necker hospital, was the father of modern neurosurgery; because of his work on the localisation of cerebral function the centre for articulate speech is still known as Broca's area.

Jules Pean (1830-1898) was a distinguished gynaecologist. A skilful ovariologist, he was the first to remove fibroids *per vaginam* and is said to be the inventor of the simple haemostat for the control of bleeding. His statue by Gauque was placed on the Boulevard de Port Royal [13] in 1909. That of his friend Phillipe Ricord (1800-1889) stood on the same Boulevard. Born in Baltimore of French parents, Ricord became chief surgeon at the Hopital de Midi, which in 1893 was renamed Hopital Ricord. Ricord moved in high social circles and was physician to Napoleon III. He was the greatest authority of his time on venereal disease, and the first to describe three stages of syphilis; it was Ricord who corrected John Hunter's misconception that syphilis and gonorrhoea were manifestations of the same underlying disease.(3)

Some of the doctors commemorated by statues were famous for their political affiliations, not as as physicians. Threophraste Renaudot (1586-1653 or 57), a protege of Cardinal Richelieu, became physician to Louis XIII. He was made commissary general of the poor of the Kingdom, and charged with the organisation of a programme of public assistance. He introduced France's first pawnshops. He also created charitable institutions which provided free medical care for the poor. Understandably this move proved unpopular with French doctors, and after the deaths of Richelieu and Louis XIII he was barred from practice in Paris. In 1631 he founded *La Gazette*, France's first newspaper, and is therefore considered the father of French journalism. A handsome bronze statue of Renaudot, by Boucher, was erected in 1893 on the Rue de Lutece [4].

Alphonse (Jean-Baptiste) Baudin (1811-1851), doctor and French deputy, was a martyr of the barricades of the Second Republic during the resistance to Napoleon III's coup d'etat of 1851. In 1868 eight journalists were prosecuted because they tried to have a monument erected to Baudin's memory. One, Charles Delescluze,



Fig 1 - Claude Bernard

*Terreur Blanche* reached the Vaucluse, he was persecuted and lost his job because of his republican and Bonapartiste opinions. He moved to Paris and became a distinguished chemist. In 1827 he came to believe that camphor had many properties of medicinal value, including an antiseptic role in the treatment of wounds. Although he had no medical qualification he practised medicine on the basis of the use of camphor, working mainly among the poor; his camphor based drugs were manufactured and sold by his brother Emil. In 1846 he was tried for illegal medical practice, and found guilty; he had refused to take a medical diploma because he said it would destroy his patients' confidence in him!

was editor of the radical journal *Reveil*. The young lawyer who defended him was Gambetta, who made a forceful speech against the imperial regime. Largely as a result of this Gambetta became leader of the Republican Party, and was premier for a brief period in 1881-82. A statue of Baudin was eventually erected by the city government in 1901, the fiftieth anniversary of his death, and was placed behind the Place de la Bastille, on the Avenue Ledru-Rollin [11], close to the place where he died. There was a dispute between the state and the city, triggered by their political differences, over arrangements for the inauguration of the statue. The President of the Republic eventually agreed to attend a ceremony, but declared it to be in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of Baudin's death, not for the dedication of the monument.

Francois Vincent Raspail (1794-1878) was a staunch republican and an advocate of universal suffrage. (4) . Born at Carpentras in the Vaucluse, his family was impoverished because his father, an innkeeper, died when he was two years old. A brilliant student, he was destined for the priesthood, but left his seminary in 1813 to become a teacher; he eventually broke his relationship with the church. In 1815, when La

Because of his republicanism he was jailed several times, the first in 1831, and spent a total of eight and a half years in prison. His last imprisonment was in 1848, after his involvement in the declaration of the Second Republic, but on his release in 1853 he was banished from France and spent many years in Belgium. When the Republic was fully established Raspail became a hero and, like Baudin, a French Deputy. His statue, by Morice, was erected in the Jardins Denfert-Rochereau [14] in 1889. The impressive base still stands there and has two bronze bas-reliefs by Morice; one shows Raspail tending an impoverished patient, the other his proclamation of the Second Republic at the Hotel de Ville in 1848.

A bronze statue of Jean-Paul Marat (1743-1793) by Jean Baffier, was erected in the Parc de Buttes Chaumont [19] in 1887 but destroyed in 1942. Marat was born in Boudry, near Neuchatel, now Swiss but then ruled by Prussia. After a period in France he moved to England in 1765, and practised medicine in London, Newcastle upon Tyne and Edinburgh. Although awarded an M.D. by the University of St Andrews in 1775, details of his early medical education and later training are obscure. There is a story that he was jailed for stealing from the

Fig 2 - Georges Clemenceau

Ashmolean Museum at Oxford. On leaving England he became physician to the guard of the Comte d'Artois, later Charles X of France. In 1788, deeply involved in politics, Marat founded a newspaper *L'Ami du Peuple*. In 1792 he was elected a deputy to the National Convention. Curiously, his fame rests on three things: his murder by Charlotte Corday, who stabbed him in his medicinal bath; his skin disease, which explained his presence in the bath, and which has attracted the attention of many medical writers; and his relationship with the Marquis de Sade, whom he never met, but who gave an oration at Marat's funeral (5).

In 1904 a monument to Doctor Auguste Metivier was erected in the XXth arrondissement, in the Square Tenon now renamed as Square Edouard-Vaillant [20]. It was a stone pedestal, with a decorated capital, on which stood a bronze bust of the doctor. Metivier was a local physician, who had worked at the hospital Tenon, and a former town councillor of the arrondissement. The sculptor was Mathurin Moreau (1822-1912) who, late in his life, was Mayor of the arrondissement. The bronze was removed in 1942, the pedestal several years later. Metivier is also remembered by Rue Auguste-Metivier, and by Place Auguste-Metivier at the junction of the Avenue Gambetta and the Avenue de la Republique.

#### **Claude Bernard restored.**

The first statue replaced after the war was that of Claude Bernard (1813-1878), arguably the greatest of all physiologists. He was a professor at the College de France in Paris. A bronze statue by Guillaume was erected outside the College in 1886 [5]. Its inauguration was disrupted by the Anti-Vivisection League because a dog, representing an experimental animal, protruded behind the figure of the physiologist. The bronze was removed in 1942. A new stone statue (fig 1) by Couvegnes was placed on the same site in 1946 (without the dog!).



#### **Paul Bert and Horace Wells**

In 1910, an unusual marble monument, by Bertrand Boutec, was placed in the Square des Etats-Unis [16]; it commemorates Paul Bert and Horace Wells. Paul Bert (1833-1886) was one of Claude Bernard's favourite pupils. He read engineering, law and finally medicine, became a great physiologist, and succeeded Claude Bernard at the College de France. He also dabbled in politics; with the fall of the Napoleonic dynasty Gambetta appointed him to the Prefecture of the North, and he later became Minister of Public Instruction. In 1886 he went to Tonquin in Indo-China as Resident General; he died of dysentery in Hanoi soon after his arrival. As a physiologist he recognized that oxygen lack caused altitude sickness, and pioneered the construction of decompression chambers. He wrote a classic book *La Pression Barometrique* (6) which was translated in World War 2 and used by research workers in the field of aviation medicine (7). There is a statue of Paul Bert on a bridge over the river at Auxerre sur Yonne where he was born.

- Fig 3 - Baron Dominique Jean Larrey

Horace Wells (1814-1848) was the American dentist involved in the notorious dispute over the discovery of surgical anaesthesia. In 1848 the Paris Medical Society elected Wells an honorary member, considering that he deserved the honour of having first discovered and successfully applied the use of vapours and gases whereby surgical operations could be performed without pain (8). Wells did not deserve this recognition; in 1850 the French Academy of Sciences gave the credit equally to Morton and Jackson. Under the circumstances the inclusion of Wells in a monument to Paul Bert in 1910 seems a curious juxtaposition.

#### Berlioz replaced

In 1886 a bronze statue of Hector Berlioz, by Alfred Lenoir, was placed in the Square Berlioz [9]. It was destroyed in 1942, and replaced by a new stone statue by Saupique in 1948. Berlioz, whose father was a physician, was a medical student at the Hopital de la Pitie-Salpetriere, but did not qualify. After three years of study he abandoned medicine in 1825 and entered the Paris Conservatory as a student of composition.

#### Some monuments survived World War 2.

Of the monuments to doctors which survived the cull in 1942 one, that of Capitan, was chosen for preservation; Clemenceau's statue was on a provisional list. Pinel's statue was saved because it had a low priority for destruction. The statues of the Larreys and of Bichat were not listed originally, presumably because they were not situated in 'public places or administrative locales'. Others were spared because they were of marble or stone.

Joseph Louis Capitan (1854-1929) was a pupil in the laboratory of Claude Bernard in 1874, and an interne in the Hopital de Paris in 1878. He became chief of Clinical Medicine of the Germain See of the Hotel Dieu, was a consultant at La Pitie from 1894, and in 1898



became secretary of the Societe de Biologie. However, he was commemorated mainly because of his work in the fields of pre-history and prehistoric anthropology, in which he was a pupil of de Mortillet. In 1908 he was appointed to the chair in American antiquities at the College de France. His bust, placed in about 1930, can still be found in the Square des Arenes de Lutece [4]. It is a small bust and would not have yielded much in terms of non-ferrous metals!

#### Clemenceau

Georges Clemenceau (1841 -1929) was twice premier of France. Trained as a doctor, his republicanism as a young man was in conflict with the government of Napoleon III and he spent several years in the United States working as a journalist and teacher. He returned to France in 1869, and became mayor of Montmartre a year later. His first period as premier was from 1906 to 1909, the second from 1917 to 1920. His statue by Francois Cogne, erected in 1932, stands in the Place Georges Clemenceau [8] near the Seine (fig 2). Despite his anti-

German stance some years earlier Clemenceau was accused of leniency towards the Germans after the first World War; this may have been a factor in the sparing of his statue.

Clemenceau came from a medical family. His father and grandfather were doctors, as were their forebears as far back as the sixteenth century. His son, Michel, did not follow in their footsteps. One of his daughters had a son, Rene Jacquemaire, also known as Jacquemaire-Clemenceau (1894-1931). Encouraged by his grandfather, Rene entered the medical school in Paris. But in 1914 he enlisted in the army and was sent to Verdun, where he was a corporal in an infantry regiment. Mentioned in dispatches several times, he won the Military Medal in October 1915 in an action in which his left elbow was severely injured. Fortunately he recovered without the amputation which was advised, and became a pilot in the later stages of the war. He returned to medical school and became a surgeon. A keen research worker, he studied the potential role of bacteriophage fortreating infections. Tragically, in 1931, in the course of his research, he suffered what appeared to be a minor injury, presumably with an infected instrument, and died as a result. A bronze bust of Rene was erected in July 1936 in the Rue Jacquemaire-Clemenceau[15]. It was removed during the war. In that street there is now only a plaque '*au Docteur Rene Jacquemaire, martyr de la science*'.

Larrey; father and son.

Napoleon's chief surgeon, Baron Dominique Jean Larrey (1766-1842), came from a poor family in the village of Beaudeau in the high Pyrenees. He studied medicine in Toulouse and Paris, then joined the Navy. In 1792, when Louis XVI still reigned, he went with the army on the Rhine campaign, where he made his name by introducing the system of *Ambulances Volantes* (to bring the injured back from the front line for surgery). His surgical fame rested on his

advocacy of immediate amputation for severe limb wounds. Larrey served with Napoleon in Egypt, and on many of the great campaigns - Austerlitz, the Peninsular wars, and the advance on Moscow. He wanted to go with Napoleon to Elba, but was told that his place was with the Army. He re-joined Napoleon on his return, and was present at Waterloo. In 1850 his statue, by David D'Angers (fig 3), was erected at the Val de Grace, the French military hospital [5]. In his will, Napoleon said of Larrey-«he is the most virtuous, the most upright man I have ever known». Larrey died in 1842. His body lies in the Pere Lachaise cemetery, but his heart rests in the Saint Anne chapel at Val de Grace.

Larrey's son, Baron Hippolyte Larrey (1808-1895), followed in his father's footsteps as a military surgeon (9). His father's influence procured his admission, at an early age, into the medical department of the army. He was a Chirurgien-eleve in 1829 and an Aide-major in 1832, the year he received his medical degree in Paris. That was the year of the cholera epidemic, and Hippolyte was placed in charge of the cholera wards at the Pitie hospital. He then saw active active service, earning his first decoration at the Siege of Antwerp. In 1835 he obtained the post of Professeur-agrege (de Chirurgie) at the Val-de-Grace, and became professor of Surgical Pathology there in 1841, exchanging the chair for that of Clinical Surgery in 1850. In 1858 he was appointed Inspector of the Army Sanitary Service, and a year later surgeon-in-chief with the army in Italy, where he was noted for his courage. He also distinguished himself by organising the transport of the wounded by rail, a move which was an innovation at the time and of particular interest in view of his father's introduction of the *Ambulances Volantes*.

After his retirement, at the fall of the Empire, Hippolyte was elected as Deputy for Bagneres de Bigorre in 1877, but did not seek re-election in 1881. He wrote a book, '*Madame Mere*', about the mother of Napoleon I. Hippolyte's



• Fig 4 - Baron Hippolyte Larrey

statue, by Falguiere (fig 4), was erected in 1899 in the hospital garden of the Val de Grace [5]. To the best of my knowledge the statues of the Larreys, and those of William Worrall Mayo and his sons Charlie and Will, in Rochester, Minnesota, are the only ones commemorating doctors who were father and son(s).

#### **Philippe Pinel and others**

Outside the Salpetriere in Paris, in the Square Marie Curie [13], is the statue of Philippe Pinel (1745-1826) by Ludowig Durand, erected in 1885. It was scheduled for removal in 1942 but fortunately survived. Pinel devoted himself to psychiatry, having been profoundly affected by the illness of a friend with a serious mental disorder. His main claim to fame is that, in 1796, he was permitted by the National Assembly to remove the chains from insane patients at the Bicetre hospital, so revolutionizing the treatment of the mentally ill.

Some monuments, like that of Bert and Wells, were left in place because they were carved in

stone. In the Square Ferdinand-Brunot [14] there is a marble statue of Michael Servetus (1511 -1553), by Jean Baffier, erected in 1908. A Spanish theologian and physician, born in Tudela, he worked mainly in France and Switzerland. He denied the Trinity and the divinity of Christ. He escaped the Inquisition, but was eventually burnt by Calvin at Geneva on the charge of heresy. He was one of the first to recognise that the inter-ventricular septum was not perforated, and to describe the pulmonary circulation. However, this important anatomical work attracted little attention because it was published as a short statement in a theological work.

At the junction of the Avenue Denfert-Rochereau and the Avenue de l'Observatoire [14] there is a marble bust of Theophile Roussel (1816-1903), by Champeil, erected in 1913. Roussel, the son and grandson of doctors, was born on 28th July 1816 at Saint-Chely-d'Apcher in the Lozere. In 1840 he interned, with Claude Bernard, at the Salpetriere. The following year, while at the hospital Saint-Louis, he recognized a case of pellagra. He had difficulty in getting this diagnosis accepted, as pellagra was known to occur in Italy and Spain, but was not considered to exist in France. He spent much of his life studying pellagra. In late 1847 and early 1848, at the request of the Department of Agriculture, he travelled in south west France and Spain to study the condition. In 1866 he wrote a treatise on pellagra and pseudo-pellagra for which he was awarded a prize of 5000 francs. During his trip he also became interested in a number of occupational diseases. He was very much a 'modern' physician, basing his work on the application of applied science.

In 1849, at the age of thirty three, Roussel was elected to represent the Lozere at the legislative assembly. However, after the coup d'etat by Louis Napoleon in 1851 Roussel, a convinced republican, retired from political life and went back to Lozere where he practised



• Fig 5 - *Stephane Joseph Tarnier*

Antoine-Laurent de Jussieu (1748-1836), a famous botanist who was also a doctor of medicine (11).

Stephane Joseph Tarnier (1828-1897) was a distinguished obstetrician. His axis-traction forceps, introduced in 1877, extended the usefulness of obstetrical forceps and have survived with little modification to the present day. He also invented an incubator for babies. A large bas-relief of Tarnier, by Denys Puech (fig 5), was erected in 1905 at le Pavillon Tarnier on the corner of the Rue D'Assas (number 89) and Avenue de L'Observatoire [6]. It depicts Tarnier and his incubator with a mother and her new born child who was saved by the use of the incubator. Although the money raised initially for this monument seemed adequate more had to be raised to reinforce its foundations which were threatened by underlying catacombs. (2)

medicine. With the proclamation of the Third Republic, in 1871, Roussel was again elected as the representative for Lozere. He engaged in intense political activity, campaigned against alcoholism, and worked for the improvement of prisons. More importantly he opposed the exploitation of children and introduced a law (later known as the '*loi Roussel*') designed to protect children and improve their health (10).

Louis Daubenton (1716-1799) was diverted from his medical career when George Buffon asked him to prepare anatomical descriptions for a major work on natural history. He became a distinguished zoologist, botanist and mineralogist. In 1793 he became the first director of the Museum of Natural History (the Jardin des Plantes). His stone statue, by Eugene-Louis Godin, stands in front of the bird house in the Jardin d'Acclimatation [16] where it was erected in 1864.(2) . Daubenton is shown holding a sheep, to commemorate his introduction to France of Merino sheep in order to improve the quality of French wool. His tomb can be found in the Jardin des Plantes [5] where, in the Galerie de Mineralogie, there is a statue of

### Medical cinematography

Etienne Jules Marey (1830-1904) was born in Beaune. As a boy he was interested in engineering but his father persuaded him to read medicine. He studied in Paris and was an interne at the Hopital Cochin, but then turned his attention to mechanical aspects of physiology. He produced a practical sphygmograph, by modifying the clumsy instrument devised by Vierordt, and so made it possible to make accurate recordings of the arterial pulse. With Chauveau he established that the apex beat was due to ventricular contraction. In 1882, aged 52, he invented cinematography in order to study the movements involved in locomotion. In 1881 the Municipal Council of Paris gave him a site in the Pare des Princes in the Bois de Boulogne to allow him to further his work; in 1901 a building, later called the Institute Marey, was raised there to honour him (12). A stone bas-relief, by the sculptor Paul Charles Auban, was erected in the grounds of the institute in 1913; it was moved some years ago to the tennis stadium at Stade Roland Garros [16].

- Fig 6 - Baron Guillaume Dupuytren

### Baron Dupuytren

In the courtyard of the Hotel Dieu [4] there is a stone statue by Max Barneaud (fig 6) of the great surgeon Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1777-1835). Although erected in 1946, just after the war, I have been unable to find any evidence that it replaced an earlier monument at the Hotel Dieu. However, in 1869, a bronze statue of Dupuytren was erected at Pierre Buffiere, his birthplace near Limoges. At its inauguration the main address was given by Hippolyte Larrey, whose father, Dominique Jean Larrey (see above), delivered the eulogy at Dupuytren's funeral. This statue was removed during the German occupation; it was replaced in 1977 by a new stone monument incorporating a medallion bearing Dupuytren's features (13). On a more macabre note, there is, in the Hotel Dieu, a bust of Doctor Joseph Ignace Guillotin (1738-1814), inventor of the guillotine, the advantages of which were presented to the Academy of Surgery in 1791!

### Vulpian

Rue Antoine-Dubois [6] runs between the Rue de l'Ecole de Medecine and Rue Monsieur le Prince. There stands the marble statue of Edmeond Felix Alfred Vulpian (1826-1887) erected in July 1928 (fig 6). Its sculptor, Paul Richer, was also a physician. Alfred Vulpian was born in Paris. His father, a barrister, died when Alfred was only three years old. Friends helped with his education, and he proved a brilliant scholar. After a brief apprenticeship as a carpenter he became an assistant in the laboratory of the famous neurophysiologist Pierre Flourens, who allowed him to combine his work with the study of medicine, which he commenced in 1845. He was an interne in the hospitals in 1849, and in 1850 received a medal for his devoted work during a cholera epidemic. He passed his doctoral thesis in 1853, and the competitive examination for the hospitals in 1857. He had a distinguished career as a physician at,



successively, la Salpetriere, la Pitie, la Charite and l'Hotel Dieu. He was Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine, before becoming its Dean.

In 1856 Vulpian noted that the adrenal medulla stained green with perchloride of iron, as did blood in adrenal veins (but not elsewhere in the body), and stressed that the substance thus stained (adrenaline) seemed connected with the function of the adrenals. He thus produced the first biochemical confirmation of hormonal secretion. Between 1860 and 1870 Vulpian worked with Charcot in his famous studies on '*sclerose en plaques*' (multiple sclerosis). The statue of Vulpian, like that of Dupuytren, is often painted by the medical students of Paris - one form of continuing recognition!

### Xavier Bichat

In the courtyard at number 12 rue de l'Ecole de Medecine [6] (once the Ancienne Faculte de Medecine, now the administrative centre of the Universite Rene Descartes - Paris V) there is a handsome statue of Marie Francois Xavier Bichat (1771-1802) by the famous sculptor David

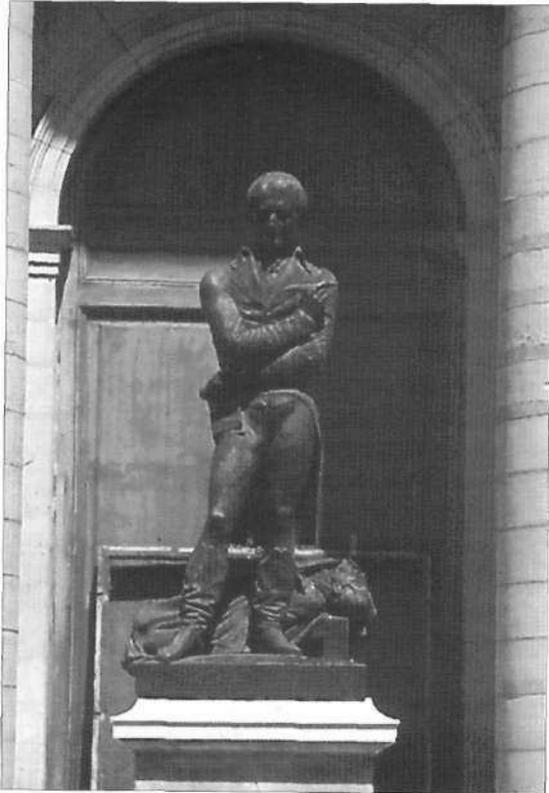


Fig 7 - Xavier Bichat - at 12 rue de l'Ecole de Medecine

D'Angers (fig 7); it was placed there in 1857. High on the walls of this courtyard there are also medallions commemorating Ambroise Pare, Mareschal, Petit, Peyronie, and Pitard. Another statue of Bichat, also by David D'Angers, was erected earlier (in 1843) in Bourg en Bresse, near the towns of Thoirette, where Bichat was born, and of Poncin, where he was raised. Although he was only 31 when he died, Bichat's work had a profound influence on medicine and biology. Without a microscope he identified and described twenty-one tissues of the body, characterizing them with terms such as nervous, vascular, mucous and serous tissues. On this basis he introduced the important concept that a disease of a tissue is essentially the same regardless of the organ in which it is found.

There is a twist to the story of Bichat's statues. Osier's book *The Evolution of Modern Medicine* (14), published after his death, has an illustration of a statue in which a doctor's hand is examining a child's heart. Beneath it is the name 'Laennec'. Dr Alex Sakula, an expert on the iconography of Laennec, assured me that Osier was wrong in suggesting that the statue was of

Laennec. In the summer of 1997 Dr Marc Wekslerand I found an almost identical statue in the cloisters of what was once the Ancienne Ecole Pratique de Medecine (now part of the Universite de Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris-VI-Jussieu). The building, at 15-21 rue de l'Ecole de Medecine [6], across the street from the courtyard at number 12, is on the site of the old convent of the Cordeliers. The statue, dated 1841, was signed by David D'Angers, but without indication of its subject (fig 8). Following enquiries, Professor Paul de Saint Maure and Professor Patrick Conan assured me that it was a statue of Bichat. Years before I had photographed the Bichat statue at Bourg en Bresse. When, belatedly, I looked at my slides I found that the Bourg statue was almost identical to the one in the cloisters. As David D'Angers himself stated that he had made only two statues of Bichat.(2) it seems clear that the statue of 1841 was a plaster model for the one erected in Bourg en Bresse in 1843.

#### Laennec's bas relief

There is a small public monument to Laennec in Paris; a bas-relief by Rene Quillivic, executed in 1926. It is situated in the Square Chevchenko [6], at the corner of Boulevard Saint-Germain and Rue des Saints Peres, in a little garden outside what used to be the chapel of the Charite hospital; the chapel is now an Ukrainian church, St Vladimir-le-Grand. There is a statue of Laennec near the cathedral at Quimper in Brittany.

#### One of the last great bloodletters

Close to the model of the Bichat statue in the cloisters at 15-21 rue de l'Ecole de Medecine [6] is another statue, that of Jean Baptiste Bouillaud (1796-1881), one of the last great blood-letters with leeches. Bouillaud made the important connection between rheumatic fever and endocarditis. It is also claimed that he was the first to localize the speech centre in the middle of



Fig 8 - Bichat - at 15-21 rue de l'Ecole de Medecine

the left cerebral hemisphere (but see Broca above). Among his patients were his teacher Dupuytren, and Napoleon III. The finish on this statue is similar to that on his neighbour Bichat; I suspect that Bouillaud's statue may also be a model for another work, possibly a statue at Angouleme which I have not yet visited.

#### Acknowledgment

This paper is based on a communication given to the Annual Meeting of the American Osier Society held in Toronto in May 1998. I am grateful to June Hargrove; her wonderful book *The Statues of Paris* introduced me to several statues with which I was not already familiar - particularly some removed in 1942. Professor Jean-Charles Sournia provided the location of many monuments. Professor Mark Weksler, an American who summers in Paris, spent a day driving me around so that I could photograph the new finds. Without him I would not have found the statues of Bichat and Bouillaud at 15-21 rue de l'Ecole de Medecine. He also helped in other ways. Thanks to the help of Professors Paul de Saint Maure and Patrick Conan (and of Isobel Porteret, who was an intermediary) I could confirm Alex Sakula's statement that Osier was in error when he identified Bichat's statue as one of 'Laennec'. Isobel Porteret also found the location of Daubenton's statue in the Jardin d'Acclimatation. The staff of the Archives de l'Assistance Publique des Hopitaux de Paris were most helpful, as was Catherine Allais of the publishers Belin. I thank Susan Kosmin-Barr for locating the statue of Hippolyte Larrey.

#### References

1. Osier, W. (1909) 'Impressions of Paris. I. Teachers and students. The reverence of the French for great men.' *J.A.M.A.* LII, 701-703.
2. Hargrove, June E. (1989). *The Statues of Paris: An Open Air Pantheon.* Mercatorfonds, Antwerp: Vendome Press, New York.
3. Castiglione, A (1947) *A History of Medicine.* Translated from the Italian and edited by E B Krumbhaar. 2nd Edition. New York, Alfred A Knopf.
4. Weiner, Dora B (1968) *Raspail: Scientist and Reformer.* Columbia University Press, New York.
5. Nockels, K. (1994) 'Jean Paul Marat (1743-1793): scientist and revolutionary.' *J med Biography* 2: 156-171.
6. Bert, Paul (1878) *La Pression Barometrique.* Paris, G Masson.
7. Bert, Paul (1943) *Barometric Pressure.* Translated from the French by Mary Alice Hitchcock and Fred A Hitchcock. Columbus, Ohio. College Book Company.
8. MacQuitty, Betty (1969). *The Battle for Oblivion; the Discovery of Anaesthesia.* London, George G Harrap & Co.
9. *The Lancet* (-1895). The late Baron Larrey. II, 1011 (October 19).
10. Blondel-Pasquier, Michel (1993/94) Theophile Roussel: Un philanthrope et une institution bientot centenaire. *Soins Psychiatrie* 158/159: 44-51
11. Alter, Anna & Testard-Vaillant, Phillipe (1997). *Guide de Paris Savant.* Belin, Paris.
12. Silverman, M.E. (1996). ' Etienne-Jules Marey: 19th Century cardiovascular physiologist and inventor of cinematography.' *Clin Cardiol* 19:339-341
13. Barsky, Hannah K. (1984). *Guillaume Dupuytren: a surgeon in his place and time.* Vantage Press, New York.
14. Osier, W. (1920). *The Evolution of Modern Medicine.* Houghton Mifflin Co., Chicago.

#### Biography

Neil McIntyre is a Professor of Medicine with a particular interest in the liver and its diseases. He is a keen medical historian, a past president of the Osier Club of London and a member of the American Osier Society and the International Society for the History of Medicine. He also has a major interest in medical education.