

Diagnosing a Neurological Condition through the Lens of Antiquity (335 B.C.-1100)

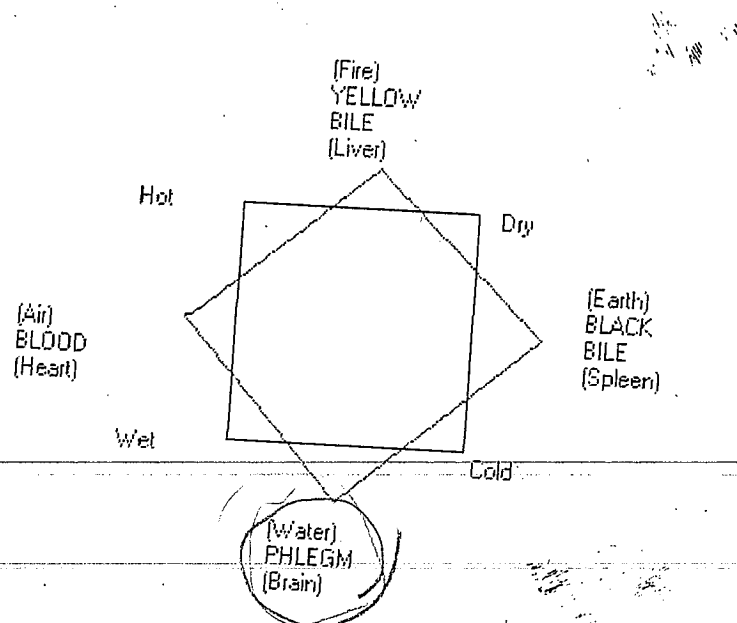
The Diagnosis= Brain imbalance/ motor and sensory nerves not performing well enough

Medical approaches= Hippocratic Medicine/Oath, "On the Nature of Man," "On the Sacred Disease."

Medical related findings of the Hellenistic period (323-150 B.C.) were greatly influenced by the Greeks and Romans, who were influenced by the Egyptians. But, physicians of the Hellenistic period were interested in how medicine and philosophy were connected (i.e. "theoretical issues"), whereas the physicians of Egypt developed practices such as "basic surgery, the use of internal medicines, religious incantations, and dream healing." Preceding these ideas was Hippocratic Medicine/Oath which embodied "On the Nature of Man," and "On the Sacred Disease," two major findings.

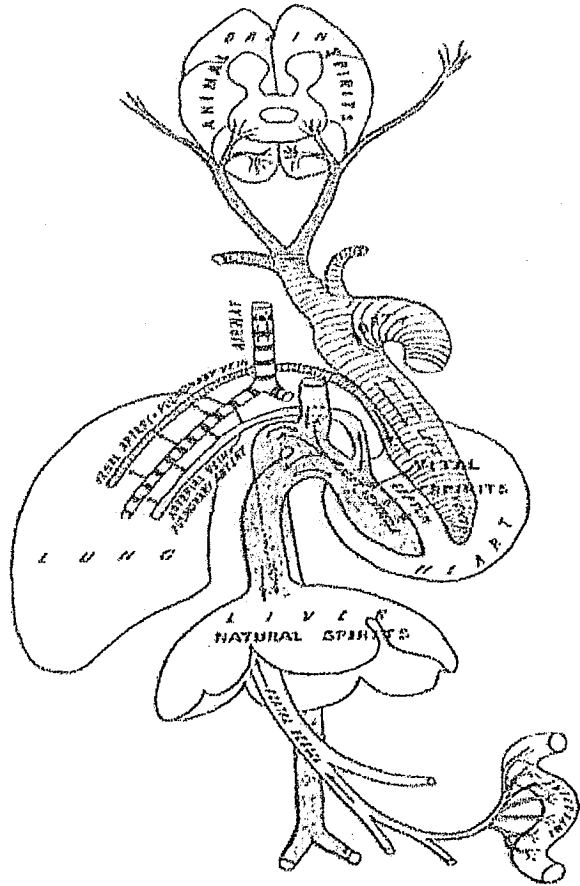
"On the Nature of Man" depicts "the theory of the four humors," which is the stemming idea that "the nature of a man's body is made up of blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile, and it is through these four humors that man either feels pain or enjoys health." "On the Sacred Disease" depicts "holiness of diseases according to natural causes," its philosophy based on the symptoms of epilepsy, and cleansing processes related to everyday life (e.g. diet and bathing). Both of these approaches are categorized as Hippocratic Medicines, and help to make up what is called the *Hippocratic Oath* which can be summarized as the "representation of learned medicine, the defending of the nature of medicine as an art or science, the belief in the relationship of the human frame to the universe in a general sense, and the defense of the principles of treatment and cure."

Diagram of the Four Humors



arterial blood (and vital spirit) to all parts of the body; and the liver (seat of desire or appetite) was the source of the veins, nourishing the body with venous blood.”

Diagram of Galen's Physiological System



Aristotle considered the heart to be “the organ of thought and sensation,” and the brain as a “radiator designed to cool it.” He also found the heart to be different from “the basis of thought,” as such was part of the “rational soul” which doesn’t exist within the body. In addition, Aristotle proposes that the short term memory vs. long term memory differ.

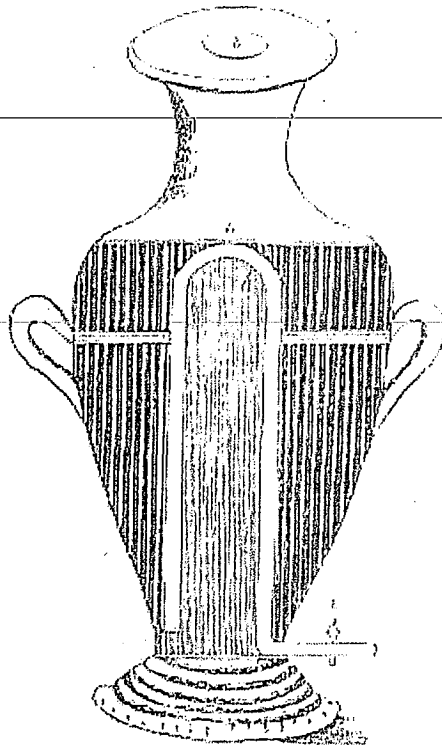
At least 3 references (1 non computer based=

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/brain/history/> <http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Seseli+libanotis>

http://www.holisticonline.com/remedies/Heart/stroke_alt_herbs.htm

the eye, and "argued the eye was filled with a subtle soul or vital spirit" based on his tracing of the optic nerve from the eye to the brain." He was able to describe the "intestines, reproductive organs, liver heart and pancreas" after studying the abdominal cavity organs. Herophilis studied the wall thickness of veins and arteries, concluding that they differentiate from one another. In addition, he "examined heart" and arterial pulse, allowing him to develop his "theory of the diagnostic value of pulse," in which he states that "pulse isn't a collection of the arteries possessed at birth, but rather it comes from the heart." With this method, the water clock was used to measure the frequency of a patients pulse during diagnosis.

Water Clock



Michael Lahanas

Erasistratus examined the heart's bicuspid and tricuspid valves/ their function, determining "one way blood flow through the heart." He explored the concepts of "digestion, respiration, and the vascular systems," and drew a connection between the make-up of bodily tissues to veins, arteries, and nerves.

Galen, a Roman physician, well known for his extensive volumes of literature on medical discoveries, combined teleology ("the study of the design or purpose in natural phenomena") with anatomy and physiology. Galen proposed the following system:

"The brain (seat of the soul's rational faculties) is the source of the nerves, accounting for sensation and motor functions; the heart (seat of the passions) was the source of the arteries, conveying life giving

Recommended treatment= Herbal Remedies

The common herbs used in Ancient Greece:

~anise-restoring mental equilibrium, relieving tension and irritation, brighten the eyes ~squirting cucumber-cleansing properties ~cumin-aches and pains ~frankincense-renew cells and relieve rheumatism ~germander-headache ~myrrh-blood stagnation ~olive oil-deter memory loss ~parsnip-prevent stroke

The understanding of the condition= Imbalance in brain and therefore in motor as well as sensory nerves.

Key people from this time that added to the field of neuroscience (any kind of recognition that they may have received for their work=

Herophilis and Erasistratus were two leading biologists who focused mainly on Anatomy and Physiology. Together, they were the first to dissect a human body and gather information about man by comparing it to other animals.

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Separately, Herophilis fancied the anatomy of the brain as well as nervous system by discovering two brain membranes (dura mater and pia mater), recognizing how the spinal cord, nerves, and brain relate to each other, establishing the idea that there's a difference between motor and sensory neurons, and gained a deeper understanding of the nervous system functions. Herophilis identified basic concepts of