



# UCLA Programs in Medical Classics

## History of Recent Advances in Therapeutics

### Winter-Spring 2005

**UCLA Programs in Medical Classics** is a series of presentations designed to enhance an appreciation of the links among famous medical writings, clinical practice, basic research, and humanistic scholarship. Six times a year these meetings bring together a convivial group of individuals of scholarly tastes—both from the community and from UCLA faculty, students, and staff—for a lecture and an opportunity to discuss and examine texts and topics that embody the history of medicine, as well as the relations of medicine to broader cultural settings.

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/medicalclassics.html>

Tuesday, 8 February 2005, 6:00 p.m.

(an exhibit pertaining to the evening's lecture will be on view starting at 5:00 p.m.)

### ***The EEG in America and the Development of Clinical Neuroscience***

**David Millett, M.D., Ph.D.**

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Introduction by Russell A. Johnson, M.A., M.L.S.

History & Special Collections Division, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library; and  
Neuroscience History Archives, UCLA Brain Research Institute

During the mid-1930s, four different laboratories in North America began to study the electroencephalogram (EEG), a new technique that recorded the electrical activity of the human brain. This phenomenon of electrical brain waves had been recently discovered by an obscure German neuropsychiatrist searching for physical evidence of psychic energy, but was largely ignored in Europe and Britain. Within a few short years, however, investigators in Boston, New York, Providence, and Iowa City transformed the EEG into a powerful tool that reshaped clinical neurology, neurophysiology, and psychology. Indeed, the EEG was the first objective measurement of brain function, and by 1940 the EEG had been used for the diagnosis, prognosis, and surgical treatment of the epilepsies; staging of sleep; localization of brain tumors for surgical resection; and was used to explore psychological phenomena as diverse as stuttering, psychosis, and hypnosis. Furthermore, the EEG was critical for the development of clinical neuroscience by demonstrating that action currents, the fundamental physiological event in the nervous system widely studied in peripheral nerve preparations, were just as applicable to higher brain function and correlated with different states of consciousness. This lecture will explore some of the pioneers of the EEG in America and their remarkable contributions to the study of brain function.

This is the first of four lectures in the **History of Recent Advances in Therapeutics** series

An optional dinner with the speakers, at \$22.00 per person, will take place in the Faculty Center about 7:30 pm. An advance reservation is required for dinner; please call the History & Special Collections Division of the Louise Darling Biomedical Library at **(310) 825-6940** by Thursday, February 3, to make a reservation.

An abridged form of a classic text related to the evening's lecture will be distributed by snailmail to those persons who request it in advance. To request this *related* text (*the lecture itself is not recorded or transcribed*) or more information, please send Teresa Johnson <[tgj@library.ucla.edu](mailto:tgj@library.ucla.edu)> an e-mail, including your name and address, with the words "**Medical Classics Program: February 2005 Reading**" in the subject line; or call the History & Special Collections Division at (310) 825-6940.