

when a fourth generation descendant of the Richarz family gave it to the Academy of Arts in Berlin.

Richardson's treatment of Robert Schumann's illness was typical [6] for the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century treatment of what was at first considered to be "melancholy with delusions" but rapidly a case to the feared diagnosis of a "general (incomplete) paralysis."

fontanelle," a deliberately induced wound that was kept festering in order to induce a "removal by pus" of harmful substances, was applied to Schumann several times. This method was not further recommended in the 1861 textbook by Griesinger [4].

- Dietetic considerations were the general basis of the treatment [6]. These were perhaps a last remnant of the pre-Enlightenment period, a relic of the 2000-year-old four humors theory about changes in the composition of the blood, the elimination of harmful substances, and excretion. These considerations were behind the many Richardson's dietary measures, the regulation of defecation and some of the procedures such as the "fontanelle." Medication given as part of the dietetic treatment was intended to regulate digestion and excretion and included mainly laxatives and sedatives. Stool inspections were therefore a key component of the dietetic treatment regime, as was the frequent administration of an enema.

Richardson was a follower of the Conolly "no restraint" movement. He had an empathetic attitude towards Schumann and showed appreciative interest in him also beyond his death. In his medical reports, letters, and later publications [7], his writing does not use any terminology that unconsciously belittles the patient or implies that he was an annoying object.

The "paralysis" became a certainty in the course of Schumann's paranoid-hallucinatory symptoms. He showed cerebro-organic characteristics of dementia together with severe agitated states, Richardson's increase in pupil size, and increasing speech disturbances. His journal describes a dramatic illness course that is somewhat but overall showed a continuous worsening of the mental and physical state [8]. In the medicine of the time, syphilis was just emerging as the suspected cause, and the term "progressive paralysis" became

The main result of the autopsy of Robert Schumann [1] was a general

atrophy of the cerebrum and "the pituitary gland ... surrounded by a fairly large amount of a yellowish, slushy mass that in part has the consistency almost of gumma." This is similar to a syphilitic gumma in the basal brain, most likely suggests at least a

local intracerebral tumorous irritation. Schumann describes a venereal infection in his diary at the age of 21 and mentions it to the treating physicians in a guilt-like, self-blaming episode on September 12 [1]. Today, we cannot be absolutely certain what kind of venereal disease

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