



The quest to find a cure for Parkinson's disease: Mentored by a Madman: The William Burroughs experiment

Professor Andrew Lees





Give me a doctor partridge-plump,
Short in the leg and broad in the
rump,
An endomorph with gentle hands
Who'll never make absurd
demands
That I abandon all my vices
Nor pull a long face in a crisis,
But with a twinkle in his eye
Will tell me that I have to die.

WH Auden



Gerald Stern





I also encourage you to devote some time to the Sherlock Holmes adventures and the narrative of Marcel Proust's 'A la Recherche du Temps Perdu'

*William Goody- 1975 Ward 5.2 UCL
Gower Street*



Arthur Conan Doyle tells part of the story of Sherlock Holmes





Parallels between Neurologists and Criminal Detectives

Both neurologists and criminal detectives seek hidden truths and meanings in narrative.

Both rely on a rigorous tried and tested method which pays attention to detail.

Both seek to restore order in the face of an assault on the body.



Holmes & Dr Watson



Conan Doyle



William R Gowers



The National Hospital,
Queen Square is still a
'crime scene' and the
spirit of William Gowers
stalks the wards.

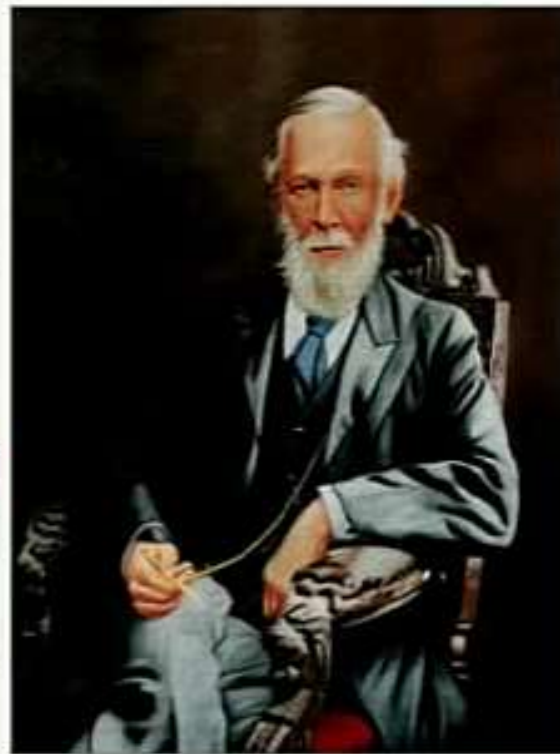
BRAIN

DORSAL COLUMN

Grey Matter

The strange case of Dr William Gowers and
Mr Sherlock Holmes

Andrew J. Lees



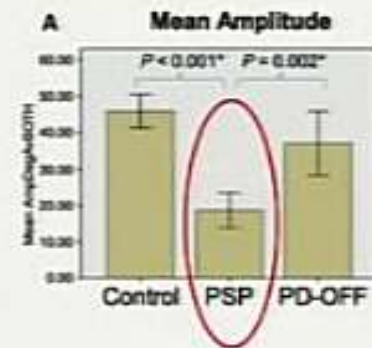


The difference between adequate and inadequate observation, between precision and laxity between looking and seeing is more than a difference in degree; it is absolute, and absolute also is the enduring influence.

Jul 15, 2011 | Volume 132
 Brain
 A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

Hypokinesia without decrement distinguishes progressive supranuclear palsy from Parkinson's disease

Helen Ling,^{1,2,3} Luke A. Mansory,^{1,2,3} Andrew J. Lees,^{1,2,3} Peter Brown⁴ and Brian L. Day⁵



PSP:
Hypokinesia without decrement



PD:
Decrement and fatigue







William Burroughs plays Doc Benway





William Burroughs plays Doc Benway





William Burroughs plays Doc Benway

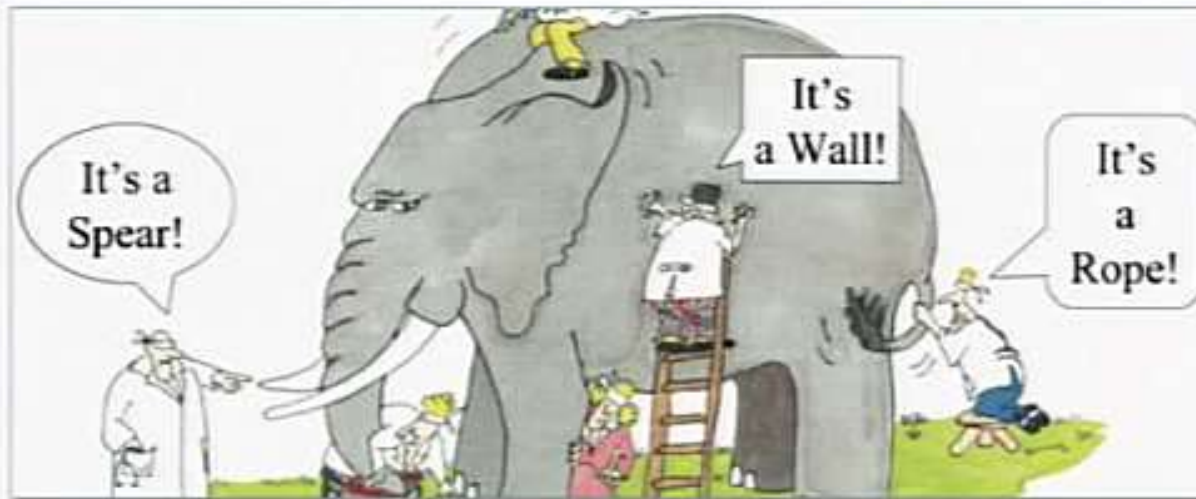




William Burroughs plays Doc Benway



William Burroughs on Doctors



Doctors are by and large drastically limited in outlook. They have read all there is to know on any subject and that is that. Anything outside their knowledge cannot be worth hearing about. So I really gave up years ago. Some doctors in Denmark still use the apo treatment but they clash with the psychiatrists. In my opinion a substantial number of nerve doctors should be broken down to veterinaries but that goes for the medical practice in general...



Give me a doctor underweight,
Computerised and up-to-date,
A businessman who understands
Accountancy and target bands.
Who demonstrates sincere devotion
To audit and to health promotion –
But when my outlook's for the worse
Refers me to the practice nurse.

Marie Campkin retired London General Practitioner



The Romance and Soul of Neurology



William Burroughs (1914-1997)



- Regulation of clinical research is now extraordinarily bureaucratic, expensive and confusing – and is getting worse.
- Over-regulation may very well lead to serious bias in clinical research and therefore the wrong conclusions being drawn and restrict it to large organisations.





No new magic moments?

- Movement toward theory driven drug design based on translational research.
- A reduction in the amount of time that clinicians have to observe patients.
- Constriction in the range of compounds tested and growing risk aversion in society encouraged by avaricious lawyers .
- An overreliance on the double-blind placebo control design to demonstrate efficacy.





No research has been done with variations of the apomorphine formula or with synthetics. No doubt substances fifty times stronger than apomorphine could be developed and the side effect of vomiting eliminated.... I suggest that research with variations of apomorphine and synthesis of it will open a new frontier extending far beyond the problem of addiction.

William Burroughs, Naked Lunch





Movement Disorders 2016

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Oral R-(-)-11-O-Valeryl-N-n-Propylnoraporphine Reverses Motor Deficits in MPTP-Treated Marmosets

Louise Lincoln, Ria Fisher, Michael J. Jackson, BSc, Peter Jenner, PhD, DSc, John Neumeier, FACS, PhD, Anna W. Seomek, PhD, Andrew J. Lees, FRGP, F.Med.Sci., and Sarah Rose, PhD

Baseline

10 minutes post NPA-valerate





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Self-experimentation



"I could imagine his giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid, not out of malevolence, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. To do him justice, I think he would take it himself with the same readiness."

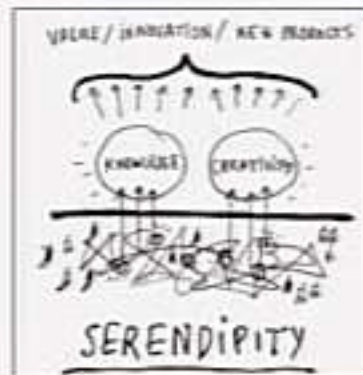
*Stamford to Doctor Watson in
A Study in Scarlet*

"There is nothing like first-hand evidence."
- *A Study in Scarlet*



CHANCE AND LUCK

- "Blind luck" chance happens and nothing about it is attributable to you
- Chance favours those in motion- the "happy accident" stemming from a willingness to experiment in life.
- "Chance favours a prepared mind", a background of knowledge based on observation and memory
- Fortuitous events which are dependent on particular interests peculiar to an individual especially when they operate in domains far removed from the area of discovery- Altamirage phenomenon.



The Dopamine Dysregulation Syndrome

- **From the outset of treatment these individuals**

- request higher and higher doses
- comment on “dopamine highs”
- complain of progressive medication ineffectiveness
- increase their dopamine replacement therapy against medical advice to over 1.5grams of dopa a day

- **Develop addictive pattern of drug use**

- demand for frequent rescue doses with craving
- become slaves to their medication
- secret hoarding and drug seeking

About 0.5% of all patients mainly young males

Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, 2004; 75: 404-408

Hedonic homeostatic dysregulation in patients with Parkinson's disease on dopamine replacement therapies

G. Giordano, J. D. O. Sullivan, K. Turner, A. J. Wilson, A. J. Lees

Abstract Hedonic homeostatic dysregulation is a common cause of addiction. The evolution of this pattern in some patients may follow



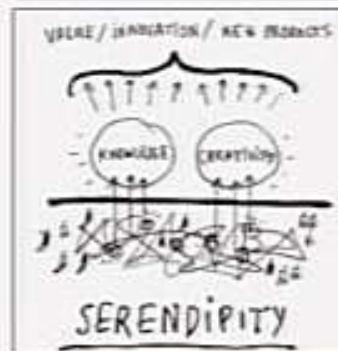
Reward improves bradykinesia



Courtesy of Andrew Evans

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Words of advice from Gautama Buddha

*Do not accept what you hear
by report, do not accept
tradition, do not accept a
statement because it is
found in our books, nor
because it is in accord with
your belief, nor because it is
the saying of your teacher.
Be lamps unto yourselves.*

Ca. 500 BC

