

From the Back Verandah

Resurrectionists are not, as you might be excused for imagining, some born-again American sect. Far from it. They were the chief players in a macabre custom that arose in Britain in the latter half of the 18th century and flourished until the Anatomy Act was passed in 1832. These grave-robbers would open the coffins of the recently buried and sell the bodies to surgical and medical schools. They always took care to remove the corpse naked, since this was a misdemeanour in law, whereas if clothing was taken the offence was a felony.

Sometimes murders were committed in order to obtain a body to trade, with a famous pair of homicidal Resurrection Men being William Burke and William Hare,

who used to suffocate their victims and sell their bodies to Dr. Robert Knox, an Edinburgh surgeon. With the assistance of their wives, they enticed fifteen people to their deaths before their crimes were discovered, at which point Hare turned King's evidence, which left Burke alone to be hanged, in 1829.

The case became so notorious that it gave Burke's name to a verb meaning "to murder by suffocation or strangulation". The word came later to be used metaphorically to indicate the quiet suppressing of ideas at inception (e.g. "the publication was burked"), though it seems to have been smothered itself somewhere in the first half of the 20th century.

— Fizzgig

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A Few Statistics

Now and then I'm asked questions about *Bikwil* like these:

What proportion of subscribers receive *Bikwil* through the mail?

What proportion of subscribers live outside Australia?

What proportion of subscribers are women?

I looked into this again recently, and have prepared a table setting out some figures about our current subscribers that may interest you.

By Post (52%)				Downloaded from Internet (48%)			
Australia (45%)		Overseas (7%)		Australia (21%)		Overseas (27%)	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
23%	22%	4%	3%	10%	11%	12%	15%

Colophon

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Back Issues Are Still Available

*Old piano players never die;
they simply fake away.*

Anonymous

*No diet will remove all the fat from your
body because the brain is entirely fat.
Without a brain you might look good, but
all you could do is run for public office.*

Covert Bailey

Quintessential Quirky Quotes

*Macaulay? He has occasional flashes
of silence that make his conversation
perfectly delightful.*

Rev. Sydney Smith

*Who are you going to believe, me or
your own eyes?*

Groucho Marx

*If only God would give me some clear sign!
Like making a large deposit in my name at a
Swiss bank.*

Woody Allen

in the German Rhineland, among a Jewish colony that had emigrated from northern France and northern Italy, adapting the German dialects of their new environment to their own special needs, e.g. by using German words but writing them in Hebrew script. The word *Yiddish* itself derives from a dialectal form of the German word for Jew — *Jude*.

Gradually, according to *Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopedia*,

. . . to the original German were added those Hebrew words that pertained to Jewish religious life. Later, when the bulk of European Jewry moved eastwards into areas occupied predominantly by Slavic-speaking peoples, there were some Slavic admixtures.

Despite (or, more likely, because of) years of torment during the Black Death (for which the Jews were blamed), and in places like Poland and the first ghetto in 16th century Venice, Yiddish continued to thrive. Indeed, wherever such communities have since settled beyond their European homelands their language has enriched surrounding languages. The most notable case is that of America, both in the streets and shops of New York and in the halls and offices of show business.

Here is a tiny selection of Yiddishisms you will all be familiar with, even if you didn't know their

origin. First some single words, then a few phrases:

bagel
chutzpah
glitch
klutz
kosher
mishmash
motza
nosh
schmalz
schmuck
schnook
schnoz(zle)
shlemiel.

Better we should stop the clock
I should live so long (be so lucky)
Now he tells me
Oedipus-schmoedipus (etc.)
Who needs it?

Even P.G. Wodehouse, knowingly or not, used a word of Yiddish origin to name one of his richer young characters — Oofy Prosser. The English slang word *oofy* (= “wealthy”) comes through the Yiddish *oofish* from the German *auf dem Tische*, which can mean “money on the table”.

For the “complete” list of expressions Yiddish you can do no better than American humorist Leo Rosten's *The Joys of Yiddish*, first published in 1968 and now available in a variety of editions.

There is also a well regarded body of Yiddish literature out there that stretches back as far as the 12th century.

— Harlish Goop

Project Gutenberg

Project Gutenberg (PG) began in 1971 when Michael Stern Hart¹ was given one hundred million dollars worth of computer time by the operators of the Xerox Sigma V mainframe at the Materials Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois. Mr Hart suggests that he happened to be in the right place at the right time as there was more computer time than people knew what to do with and the operators were encouraged to do whatever they wanted with that fortune in “spare time” in the hope that they would become more proficient at their jobs. After due reflection, Mr Hart decided that one of the most effective uses of computers would be the storage, retrieval, searching and reading of material stored in computer libraries. He then proceeded to key in the American *Declaration of Independence* and produced the first electronic text (etext) in the PG library. The rest, as they say, is history.

Creation of an etext of the *Declaration of Independence* was followed by the American *Bill of*

Rights, the *US Constitution*, the *Bible*, Shakespeare (a play at a time), and then by general work in the areas of literature and reference. From December 1971 to December 1993 one hundred etexts were produced. This was no mean feat when one considers that the list includes Shakespeare, the *Bible* and other considerable works. All had to be keyed in and then checked by proof reading and comparison with the printed work. Appropriately, and not coincidentally, etext one hundred was *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*.

Now, with the advent of computer scanners (which enable one to “read in” printed pages and convert them to editable electronic text) and the increase in popularity of the Internet, there are over three thousand six hundred etexts available in the Project Gutenberg library and Mr Hart recently announced that, for the first time, more than twenty new etexts were posted to the library in one week. A prodigious effort by the many volunteers

involved in converting printed works into etext. The aim is to reach ten thousand texts.

One might think that the pool of printed works will run dry, however this can never happen because every year new works become available as the copyright on them runs out. Furthermore, volunteers have begun the work of converting to etexts the literary gems of other languages, thus opening further rich veins of literary ore for plundering.

Electronic Data

The premise on which Michael Hart based the Project Gutenberg concept was that electronic data stored in a computer can be reproduced indefinitely by passing it from computer to computer. Once a book or any other item (including pictures and sounds) has been stored in a computer then any number of copies can be made. Everyone in the world, or even not in this world (given satellite transmission) can have a copy of a book that has been entered into a computer. When people holiday on Mars, later this century, they might have a copy of Homer's *Iliad* beamed up to them. The book that they always

meant to read. They would only need to specify the required language.

It was decided to store etexts in the simplest, easiest to use form available: the “plain vanilla” or ACSII² format, the basic characters one reads on a normal printed page. Italics, underlines, and bolds would be capitalized as they are not supported by many basic text readers. This decision was made because 99% of the hardware and software in use all over the world can read and search these files. Any other system of etext storage will fall short of an audience of 99%. Furthermore, etexts stored in this format are easily converted to many other formats, such as that used in word processing and that used to represent text on Internet web pages (i.e. HTML³).

Michael Hart has said that he wants people to be able to use PG etexts to look up quotations they have heard in conversation or in movies, or which they have read in other books. He envisages a compact disc (CD) containing all PG titles, which will constitute a library containing all these quotations within the individual etexts. One could easily search the entire

A Word in Your Pink Shell-like

Having written something over two years ago on the Basque language (Issue 13, May 1999), I've decided that it's high time to have a quick look at another “special” language — Yiddish.

Now, contrary to what a lot of people think, Yiddish is not a derived form of Hebrew, though of course it is spoken by Jews. No, its source is actually German.

I'll tell you about its beginnings and influence shortly, but first I want to tell you about my first brush with the language — albeit an unconscious one.

Do any of you remember the American comedian Stan Freberg?

He was popular in the 1950s for his parodies of entertainment fads of the time. His work was available on 78s, so it was often played on the radio. It included send-ups of songs like *The Great Pretender* and cop shows like *Dragnet*.

One parody of the latter show Freberg entitled *St. George and the Dragonet*, and at one point the following dialogue took place:

St. George: 8:22 p.m. I talked to one of the maidens who had almost been devoured . . .

Maiden: It was terrible, he breathed fire on me, he burned me already!

That phrase “he burned me already” rang in my ears. At high school and studying German when I first heard Freberg, I recognised the Germanic flavour of the “already”, since German has a word *schon* that often translates to English “already”.

Teachers were at pains to point out, however, that equally often *schon* plays the role of what linguists call a “particle”, a minor part of speech that can be left out altogether in an English translation or else rendered as something like “even” or “never fear” or “I admit” or “just” or “really”. German people who aren't yet fully conversant with vagaries of English colloquial language can thus be heard including the “already” in places that seem quite unexpected to native English speakers.

But what this schoolboy never realised for years was that the Stan Freberg usage was only indirectly echoing German; its more immediate origin was as a well-known New York Yiddishism.

Historically, Yiddish arose towards the end of the tenth century

In Praise of the Small

Smaller than my small finger
 this little glass
 has power there:
 a tender eye
 to magnify
 a word, a moon, a star.

Like that tiny lens
 may mine see large
 and beautiful
 all the wonders small,
 the shyly hidden
 and the intricate make clear.

— Bet Briggs

library without any program more sophisticated than a plain search program found on every personal computer.

The text of an average book will fit on a standard 3.5inch floppy disk, available on most personal computers. However, pictures such as those in the book *Alice in Wonderland* present special problems for electronic reproduction because of the computer disc space which they take up. Nevertheless, Project Gutenberg is very interested in including pictures and other graphics and will continue to take advantage of developments in computer technology to add to the richness of its library of free, readily available literary and reference works.

Scope of the library

The cataloguing and indexing of the library is still under review and is, in itself, a major undertaking. However, works may be broadly classified as follows:

- ◇ Light literature such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking-Glass*, *Peter Pan* and *Aesop's Fables*.
- ◇ Heavy Literature such as the *Bible* and other religious

documents, *Shakespeare*, *Moby Dick* and *Paradise Lost*.

- ◇ References such as *Roget's Thesaurus*, almanacs, a set of encyclopedia and dictionaries, philosophy and natural history.

There is no substitute for a good book

Many people point out that there is no substitute for the look, feel and smell of a book and that it is easy to browse through it, mark relevant passages and look at the illustrations. This is perfectly true, and one might say that the use of etexts has until now, been largely restricted to using them to find specific references, since one needs a sit at a computer to view them. Until now, that is.

Sometimes we must wait for technology to catch up before we can make use of an existing situation. The Internet existed in only a crude form when Mr Hart started keying in the *Declaration of Independence*. We had to wait for computers to become cheap and ubiquitous for the production of PG etexts to explode. In the same way, technology is only now making available portable electronic readers with which we

will be able to read etexts, or have them read aloud to us via text recognition software, wherever we can now read a book. As one sits on Mars and use a voice command to open *The Iliad* to a bookmarked position one might issue the command “mouldy old paper” to have the reader exude the smell one most associates with old books.

It is part of Michael Hart's genius that he saw the potential of Project Gutenberg and persisted with the concept for over twenty years before technology turned the project into something beyond, dare I say, even his wildest dreams. There is no substitute for a good book. It is just that its present form may not matter all that much to future generations.

Volunteers

The continuing success of Project Gutenberg depends on volunteers. As Michael Hart has frequently pointed out, PG is made up entirely of volunteers who produce etexts, proof read them, post them to the PG Internet site, post copies on “mirror” sites around the world, maintain the computer hardware and software involved in the project,

correct errors in the text as noted by end-users, do copyright checks and attend to the many administrative tasks involved with any major co-operative project.

Volunteers choose which texts they wish to work on and hence which etexts are posted to the PG site. Since any book out of copyright⁴ may be used, there is a bewildering choice of titles. Any title chosen is subject to a copyright “clearance” after which it will usually be accepted for posting. Some volunteers prefer to proof read work prepared by others. Or, one may become involved in “helping” Mr Hart put the finishing touches to texts before posting, such as adding headers and footers or making minor formatting changes.

When you are reading your etext of *The Iliad* whilst holidaying on Mars, spare a thought for the prodigious amount of work which has been undertaken by Michael S. Hart and the PG team to bring it to you just when and where you want it.

Project Gutenberg on the Internet

The official PG site may be found at <http://www.promo.net/pg/>. A regular newsletter is

else (family, work, friendship) comes second.

“Twitchathons” are held regularly in Australia and around the world. These are fund raising events where teams compete against each other to “twitch” as many species in a 24 hour period as possible. Sponsors are invited to donate a sum of money per each species sighted — similar to a Walkathon or Readathon.

In Australia the record number of different species sighted in a 24 hour period is about 210. The distance covered in that time is around 300 – 500 kilometres

visiting as many varied habitats as time allows.

Bird watching may sound weird but it is great fun, a fulfilling and a wonderful pastime. It has given me the opportunity to travel everywhere in Australia and to some magic places overseas.

So, if you hear a “twitcher” say that he “gripped” off his “birddo” mates by getting “crippling” views of a “lifer” while others “dipped out” you will have some idea of what it means.

— Giorni



Twitching

Birdwatchers would be familiar with the word “twitching” “or “twitcher”.

It refers to a birdwatcher adding to his bird list. All serious birdwatchers keep a life list of bird species that they see (or “twitch”) during their birding pursuits. Keeping a life list becomes an interesting and challenging obsession. In tracking down target species there are no guarantees that a particular bird will stay in one area or even turn up when it is expected. Just to catch a glimpse of a rarity can be a real buzz, but to get a “crippling” view (i.e. to really see the bird close up and for a good long viewing time) would be the ultimate in sheer delight for a birdwatcher.

The word “twitching” — the act of ticking birds for one’s life list comes from the fact that birdwatchers (or “twitchers”) are so excited at the prospect of adding a new bird to his/her life list that they actually develop a nervous twitch in anticipation. Also the possibility of missing out on

seeing the bird adds more stress and anxiety. A new bird added to one’s life list is called a “lifer”.

Sightings of rare species can be very unpredictable – the idea is to have a good network in order to learn quickly of any rare sightings and drop everything immediately to chase down that elusive tick. Some rare birds will only stay a short while in one spot before moving away. If you miss out on seeing the bird then it means that you have “dipped”, if your friends see it and you don’t — then they have “gripped” you.

Most people would think bird watching is a quite, relaxing pastime but it can be very stressful if it is taken too seriously. Many friendships have been strained and even destroyed because of being “gripped” off.

Bird watching, like any obsession such as golf, fishing, etc. is also the cause of many bird watching widows and surprisingly bird watching widowers. More and more women are being bitten by the bird-bug. When there is the chance of a “lifer”, everything

produced and information is provided about volunteering.

The *Bikwil* site has a link to PG at <http://www.bikwil.zip.com.au/LinksEtexts.html>. It is rumoured that Tony Rogers exhibits *unseemly* enthusiasm about the PG site.

For a list of Australian texts on PG, try <http://www.gutenberg.net.au/>.

Conclusion

When Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press he unleashed an unstoppable process which facilitated communication between members of the human race and the passing of knowledge and ideas in ways previously undreamed of. The invention of the computer and the expansion of the Internet have extended the capacity to pass on such knowledge and ideas. Project Gutenberg, as the repository of the condensed knowledge and ideas of some of the greatest minds in human history, contributes in no small way to this process.

Acknowledgments

Much of the background information in this article was drawn

from the Project Gutenberg Internet site at <http://www.promo.net/pg/>.

— Col Choat

[Col runs the Australian Project Gutenberg site mentioned above, and he can be contacted via email at colc@gutenberg.net.au.]

¹ Michael S. Hart, Professor of Electronic Text at Benedictine University (Illinois, U.S.A.) and Visiting Scientist at Carnegie Mellon University (Pennsylvania, U.S.A.), founded Project Gutenberg in 1971 and is currently its Executive Director. In a November 1998 article in *Wired Magazine*, Hart was chosen among *The Wired 25: A Salute to Dreamers, Inventors, Mavericks, and Leaders*. (See <http://www.honco.net/9904/contributors.html#TOPICS4> dated July 1999).

² ASCII is an acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a standard for storing characters and numbers in computers.

³ HTML is an acronym for Hyper Text Markup Language.

⁴ In the U.S.A., books are generally out of copyright seventy-five years after publication. As a rule of thumb, books published before 1923 are eligible. Full details are provided on the PG site.

Web

I've had very positive feedback on my search engines piece in Issue 26 (July 2001), particularly my enthusiastic endorsement of Google, so I thought you might be interested in some more facts about our favourite search engine.

Founded in 1998 by two graduate students at Stanford University, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, it has gradually become the search tool of choice for millions of devoted Web surfers, largely because of its remarkable speed and accuracy.

Since my earlier article, the number of daily searches Google services has continued to climb, yet it still manages to return relevant results in less than half a second. Mind you, it uses a staggering 10,000 linked server computers, which no doubt also contribute to its speed in indexing: each day three million pages are re-indexed.

Another valuable addition to its arsenal of tools has been the facility to search the text of pages in



Line

Adobe's PDF format and in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and RTF formats. At present Google is the only general-purpose search engine that does so.

And not only that, either. You can now use the Google interface in your language of choice. There are so far over 60 languages available, including Afrikaans, Basque, Hindi, Vietnamese and Welsh. Moreover, it offers translation of search results from any of the major European languages to another.

Not willing to rest on its impressive statistics for text searching, however, Google has now added an image search capability, with access to 150 million digital images.

Yes, the best is getting better by the week.

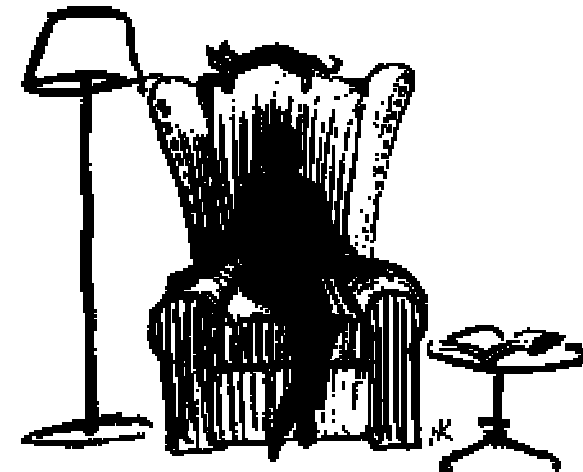
Should you be wondering, by the way, it gets its name from the mathematics term *googol*, which means 1 followed by 100 zeroes.

— TR

Internet site referred to above:

<http://www.google.com/>

Whose Chair Is It, Anyway?



— Therese Kenyon

Münich University, where he also directed a clinic.

Ardently driven by the belief that mental and psychological problems have a physical basis (namely deficits in structure or neurobiological functioning), Kraepelin inevitably imparted a quality of medical diagnosis to subsequent psychological methods. Many people misapply this flavour even today by using terminology that includes phrases like “mental illness”, “treatment of patients” and “curing mental disease”.

But by treating psychology as a physical science, Kraepelin did advance its technical capabilities at that time, and the pioneer achievements that followed from his approach were numerous.

Two investigations he carried out, for example, were an analysis of the fatigue process and a study of the effect of alcohol on the mind. It was he who coined the terms "neurosis" and "psychosis", and after analysing thousands of case histories established the clinical pictures of dementia praecox, now known as “schizophrenia”, and of manic-depressive psychosis, more commonly called “bipolar disorder” today. It was Kraepelin, too, in fact, who first explained the fundamental distinction between those two illnesses. He has also been

called “the father of modern psychopharmacology”.

These individual researches and others were ultimately incorporated into his most significant contribution to the field, which was his classification system of psychological disorders, published in 1896. The first comprehensive nosological (disease classification) system for psychology, it incorporated all that he and other researchers had learnt during the 19th century in the differentiation of a multitude of psychological symptoms.

Rejecting the theory of unconscious mental activity proposed by the psychoanalytical school, Kraepelin concerned himself solely with diagnostic taxonomy. He classified mental diseases in terms of their cause, symptoms, course, final stage, and pathological anatomical findings, and his book was so influential that in Kraepelin’s lifetime that it ran to nine editions and became for many years the standard psychology textbook. It served in fact as the foundation for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) and the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), which are the standard reference texts used by psychiatrists today.

— TR

(This essay will be concluded in the next issue.)

Dr. Strangelove and Friends

[*Stepping Stones* No. 2]

(So far, this essay has looked at the movies *Dr. Strangelove* and *Threads* and Nobel Prize non-recipient Rosalind Franklin.)

You may be wondering at this stage how many women have actually received the Nobel Prize.

Precious few.

The most famous, needless to say, was Marie Curie, who with her husband Pierre won the Physics Prize in 1903 for their discovery of radium, only two years after the Nobel Foundation was established. Marie, in fact, was the first woman to win any Nobel Prize, just as she had been the first woman in history to teach at the Sorbonne. She won the Chemistry Prize, too, in 1911.

In 1964 the Nobel Foundation conferred its Chemistry Prize on **Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin** (1910-94). It was the fourteenth time a Prize had been awarded to a woman, in this case “for her determination by x-ray techniques of the structures of biologically important molecules”. Those crucial molecules included penicillin, cyanocobalamin (vitamin B₁₂) and insulin.

Let us have a look at Hodgkin’s work on vitamin B₁₂.

In the late 1920s the American physician William B. Castle had done research on the cause of pernicious anaemia, which in those days was usually fatal. He discovered that two substances were involved: one that is produced in the body (which he called “the intrinsic factor”, still known in medicine as “intrinsic factor”, these days without the *the*) and one that is supplied in the diet (“the extrinsic factor”, which today we call vitamin B₁₂). Intrinsic factor, a glycoprotein generated in the gastric juices, forms a complex with vitamin B₁₂ that remains intact, so protecting the vitamin from digestion as it passes through the gastrointestinal tract and facilitates its absorption into the body via the small intestine.

Without enough vitamin B₁₂, the body is unable to synthesize DNA properly. In turn this affects red blood cell maturation in the bone marrow (the cells divide but their nuclei remain immature). In other words, B₁₂ avitaminosis (deficiency) — and therefore pernicious anaemia — is due to decreased B₁₂ absorption rather than a poor diet, in contrast to iron deficiency, say.

Vitamin B₁₂ was isolated in 1948, and later that year Hodgkin got an opportunity to take on the task of determining the precise configuration of its constituent atoms when the Glaxo laboratories sent some crystals to Oxford University, where she did most of her research.

It took her eight years. Penicillin had been a complex molecule to analyse in 1944-5, but vitamin B₁₂ was far more challenging, having about 100 atoms to penicillin's 17, though no one knew that when she began. Using an electronic computer, Hodgkin was the first person to apply its capabilities to X-ray crystallography. But because computers were in their infancy each calculation took several hours.

Eventually Hodgkin was able to reveal the structure of vitamin B₁₂, and other researchers began applying themselves to the challenge of synthesising it. These days it is administered via intramuscular injection, obviously because a pill taken into the stomach would defeat the purpose of absorption.

Like Rosalind Franklin, Dorothy Hodgkin maintained a lifelong passion for her chosen field of X-ray crystallography, but of course she was working in this line of work nearly two decades before Franklin. Indeed, when she began her research career, the ground rules for interpreting X-ray data had still

to be worked out. Often it was largely experimentation, and in many cases she had to grow her own crystals, photograph them, then interpret the photos. If no solution emerged, she would have to start again.

Unlike Franklin, however, Hodgkin had no trouble fitting in with her male colleagues, whom she later described as having been “particularly nice and helpful to me as a lone girl”. During her career at Oxford she did a large amount of teaching and tutoring, and is remembered as very encouraging to younger scientists in the field. One of her students, incidentally, was a certain Margaret Roberts, later Thatcher, the only British prime minister to date with a degree in science. (Mind you, some have noticed her failure, despite her education, adequately to support scientific research — but that's another story, best ignored in *Bikwil*).

In 1957 Dorothy Hodgkin helped found the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, and became a tireless worker for world peace.

Her hands, crippled by arthritis from a young age, have become famous by dint of being drawn by the most prominent sculptor of the 20th century, Henry Moore.

Pernicious anaemia, then, is now readily dealt with, thanks in part to

the labours of Dorothy Hodgkin. Management of the disease involves a monthly injection of vitamin B₁₂ that has to be continued for life. Most patients improve quickly, although the inability of the stomach to produce intrinsic factor persists. One of the long-term effects of untreated pernicious anaemia is a sort of dementia, the symptoms of which are also eased by the regular B₁₂ shots, though the neurologic damage is seldom fully reversible.

To date, of course, the news is not nearly so good with the most common form of dementia, Alzheimer's disease.

Just as with the recent prominence given to Parkinson's Disease because of the problems of actor Michael J. Fox, Alzheimer's came to the world's attention because of publicity in the 1980s surrounding the case of a film star. Rita Hayworth (1918-87) suffered from the disease for the last 15 years of her life. Alzheimer's, however, had long been known among the medical fraternity, having been described as early as 1901 by the Munich neuropathologist Alois Alzheimer (1864-1915) after whom the disease is named.

Many fear-provoking maladies have been named after the doctors who first described them — such as Barrett's Oesophagus (Núman R.

Barrett, 1903-1979), Bright's Disease (Richard Bright, 1789-1858), Down[']s Syndrome (J. Langdon Down, 1828 - 1896), Hodgkin's Disease (quite a separate Hodgkin, this one being Thomas Hodgkin, 1798-1866), Huntington's Chorea (George Huntington, 1850-1916), Parkinsonism (James Parkinson, 1755-1824) — but none has captured the broad public imagination as apprehensively as Alzheimer's. Currently, it affects 3% of the world's population by age 75 and its incidence doubles every 5 years up to age 95.

As is often the case, though, it was not the doctor in question who named Alzheimer's disease. Originally, in a lecture, Alzheimer called it merely “a peculiar disease of the cerebral cortex”. Shortly afterwards the condition became known as “presenile dementia” (or “premature dementia”), but in 1907, at the suggestion of **Emil Kraepelin**, it was given the designation it bears today.

Kraepelin (1855-1926) was a German psychiatrist who was born in Neustrelitz and educated at the University of Würzburg. He also studied in Leipzig under Wilhelm Wundt (the founder of modern psychology, 1832-1920). In 1891 he was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at Heidelberg University, and later (1903) to a similar post at