

Brodmann's curriculum vitae

I was born on November 17th, 1868 in Liggersdorf in Hohenzollern, son of the farmer Joseph Brodmann and his wife Sophie, née Benkler, Catholic Denomination and Prussian. Nationality. I attended elementary lessons in the elementary school in my home town from the age of 6 to 12; I received my humanistic education for two years at the community school in Überlingen, one year at the grammar school in Sigmaringen and six years in the grammar school in Konstanz, where in the summer of 1889 I obtained the certificate of maturity for academic studies.

I studied medicine in Munich at the universities of Munich, Würzburg, Berlin and Freiburg. In the summer semester of 1891 I passed the preliminary medical examination in Würzburg, in the winter semester of 1894/95 I passed the medical state examination in Freiburg i. B. and on the basis of the latter received on February 21, 1895 the license to practice medicine for the territory of the German Empire. After obtaining my license to practice medicine, I devoted a year to general medical training, attended clinical lectures at the University of Lausanne in the summer of 1895, and the following winter worked at the children's outpatient clinic at the Reisgerianum in Munich. During the summer of 1896 I was an assistant at the Alexanderbad mental hospital in the Fichtel Mountains. From then on I turned to the special fields of neurology and psychiatry and tried to acquire the necessary theoretical basics here.

For this purpose I heard clinical lectures and courses on psychiatry, neurology and brain anatomy from Professors Jolly, Mendel and Köppen in Berlin in the winter semester of 1896/97, as well as on experimental psychology from Prof. Stumpf and Schumann. I then worked for a year in the pathological institute in Leipzig under Prof. v. Birsch-Hirschfeld and received his doctorate there in 1898 with an inaugural dissertation on "Chronic ependymal sclerosis"

Since 1898 I have worked continuously in public clinics and institutions. My official positions were:

- Assistant doctor at the Psychiatric Clinic at the University of Jena under Prof. Binswanger (March 1898 to June 1900).
- Assistant doctor at the Municipal Insane Asylum in Frankfurt a. M. under Prof. Sioli (July 1900 to August 1901)
- Assistant at the Neurological Institute of the University of Berlin under Prof. Oskar Vogt (August 1901 to October 1910)
- Assistant physician or senior physician and head of the anatomical laboratory at the University Clinic for Mental and Nervous Diseases in Tübingen under Prof. Gaupp (October 1, 1910 to May 1, 1916). From the beginning of the war until he left the clinic, he was a voluntary doctor in the nervous department of the Reserve Hospital II in Tübingen.
- Since May 1, 1916, Prosector of the Nietleben State Medical Center near Halle (Saale)
- Since April 1, 1918, head of the anatomical topographical department at the German Research Institute in Munich (this entry is handwritten, it was probably added by his wife)

The course of scientific development and direction of work result from the attached list of some treatises and the work carried out by students under my direction.
(Due to its size, this directory is not included)

In the early years of my assistantship in Jena and Frankfurt a. M. (1898-1901), I mainly pursued clinical tasks (serratus paralysis, ascending neuritis, hypnotic methods and psychotherapy). But even then I was concerned with anatomical questions, such as examining the nervous system in polarized light and the new elective Weigert Neuroglia Staining. Experimental psychological investigations also took up a long time, namely plethysmographic studies on blood distribution in the brain during sleep, and also experimental tests of the memory disturbance in polyneuritic Psychosis.

In Frankfurt, through Alzheimer's in the microscopic laboratory there, I received the decisive impetus for the anatomical research direction in psychiatry, which became my real field of work after moving to the Neurobiological Institute in Berlin and has remained predominantly since then. As part of the general work plan of this institute, I was responsible for topographical research into the structure of the cerebral cortex, and during almost 10 years of activity there I worked on the histological localization of the cerebral cortex in the mammalian series, both in descriptive and comparative anatomical terms.

The result of these studies were the "Contributions to histological localization" (1903-08) and the "Comparative Localization Theory" (1909). In addition, I [did] occasional investigations on "Fibrillogenesis and its relationship to Myelogeny" (1907) and on various individual histopathological questions (more detailed histology and histopathology of the cerebral cortex in dementia paralytica, dementia senilis and idiocy) using the new Firillen Methods of Bielschowsky and Cajal.

For several years at the Berlin Institute, I gave regular lectures on the structure and organization of the brain as part of the lecturers' association's summer courses.

After joining the psychiatric clinic in Tübingen, apart from the more detailed histopathological tasks of the laboratory there, I was mainly concerned with anthropological questions, in particular comparative studies on the size and configuration of the brain and individual parts of the cortex in different races in comparison with animal brains (lectures at the Anatomy meeting in Munich 1912, at the natural scientist meeting in Vienna 1913 and at the Baden-Baden-Meeting of south-west German insane doctors, 1914).

As a result of the clinical and brain pathological experience I gained in my capacity as senior physician of the clinic and head of the polyclinic, the treatment of the "Physiology of the Brain" in v. Brun's "Surgical Diseases of the Brain" arose in these years. Further publications, some of which were already in progress, were interrupted by the outbreak of war and have not yet been completed.

On February 2nd, 1911 I was informed by the Kgl. Württ. Ministry of Churches and Schools awarded the *venia legendi* to the medical faculty in Tübingen for the subject of psychiatry and neurology and in August 1913 conferred the title and rank of extraordinary professor on the King of Württemberg by His Majesty.

As a private lecturer in Tübingen, I gave lectures on the following areas:

- Independent work in the field of brain anatomy and brain pathology in the clinic's laboratory
- Introductory courses in neurology and psychiatry
- Brain and language
- Aphasia, Agnosia and Apraxia

In addition, since 1908 I was involved in the psychiatric advanced training courses in Munich with lectures on topographic histology of the brain. I have received academic grants and awards:

- From the Jagor Foundation of the City of Berlin 2 research grants of 400 or 500 Mark during my work at the Neurobiological Institute in Berlin.
- A scholarship of 2000 Mark for brain research purposes from the Society of German Natural Scientists and Doctors in the summer of 1912.
- A grant of 15,000 Mark from the Academy of Sciences in Heidelberg (Heinrich Lanz Foundation) to continue my studies in brain anatomy in autumn 1912
- Appointed member of the Swedish Society of Doctors in December 1912.
- In recognition of my work at the mental hospital of the Reserve Lazarett II in Tübingen, I was awarded the Wilhelm's Cross with Swords by His Majesty the King of Württemberg in February 1916.

Brodmann ends his résumé here. The further course until his death was carried out by the Brodmann Museum.

The outbreak of World War I led to a complete interruption of the previous work. Prof. Brodmann did military service as a voluntary ordaining doctor in the nerve department of a Tübingen reserve hospital until January 31, 1916.

On May 1, 1916, Prof. Berthold Pfeiffer, head of the Nettleben state hospital near Halle a.d.Saale, appointed him to the prosector position specially created for him, thereby providing him with a secure external position in life and the means to continue his work.

Here Korbinian Brodmann met his future wife, Mrs. Margarete Franke. The wedding took place on April 3, 1917. The daughter Ilse was born on January 19, 1918.

In the meantime, the plan to found a research institute for psychiatry was near realization. From the very beginning it was clear in Prof. Krapelin's program to win someone like Brodmann for the new institution. The research institute in Munich was opened on April 1, 1918 and Brodmann took over the management of the topographical-histological department. Oskar Vogt described the membership in the new German Research Institute for Psychiatry as the highest honorary position that a German psychiatrist could then receive.

With a heavy heart Brodmann had said goodbye to Nietleben and Prof. Pfeiffer and yet moved happily into Munich to find a sphere of activity that would allow him even greater freedom of research. With youthful creativity he went to his work, to the preparation of extensive projects that should make use of his rich knowledge and skills of psychiatry. At the beginning of June he was admitted to the habilitation. His inaugural lecture on "Histological and physiological localization of the cerebral cortex" took place on July 12, 1918.

At the beginning of August 17, 1918, he apparently fell ill with a harmless flu. A few days later a general severe sepsis was noted; an infection that he had survived a year ago and that he had contracted while practicing his profession during a dissection had apparently flared up again. The strong, always healthy man, who fortunately did not suspect his difficult fate, fell into disrepair with terrifying swiftness. He already had all kinds of plans for the next few days and wanted to use the time in the sickbed for his work. When death touched his heart, he was still busy writing on his bed with his finger. Then he sank back and passed away on August 22, 1918.

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