# Contents

*Introduction* ix

1 The concept of neurosis 1

   The starting point: the views of Willis and Sydenham on ‘Hysterical and hypochondriac distemper’ 2
   The consolidation of the concept of ‘nervous disease’ 5
   The concept of neurosis in Cullen 11
   The concept of neurosis from Cullen to the beginning of the anatomoclinical period 16

2 The concept of neurosis in German romantic medicine 25

   Absence of the concept of neurosis in the work of the followers of ‘Naturphilosophie’ 25
   The concept of ‘nervous disease’ in Reil 26
   The concept of neurosis in the work of Christoph Wilhelm Hufeland and of other eclectic authors 30
   The concept of neurosis during the transition between romantic and anatomoclinical medicine: Johann Lucas Schönlein and his school 35

3 The concept of neurosis in anatomoclinical medicine before Charcot 44

   Pinel’s work as the starting point of the anatomoclinical view of the neuroses 44
   The concept of neurosis during the first anatomoclinical period. Georget’s revision 49
   The anatomoclinical concept of neurosis from Georget to Charcot: ‘functional localization’ 53

4 The physiopathological view and the concept of neurosis 59

   Broussais’s ‘Médecine physiologique’ 60
   The disappearance of the term ‘neurosis’ from British medicine 63
   The concept of ‘spinal irritation’ 64
   The ‘reflex functional nervous diseases’ 68
   From ‘intermediate neuroses’ to neurasthenia 72
   The so-called ‘vasomotor and trophic neuroses’ 75

*Endnotes* 77

*References* 87

*Index* 105