DISTURBANCES OF THE MIND

Sergei Korsakoff, Alois Alzheimer, James Parkinson, Hans Asperger … all eminent scientists whose names have become synonymous with a disease, a syndrome or an autistic disorder. Although the names of these psychiatrists and neurologists are familiar, we often know little about the individuals themselves and the circumstances surrounding their discoveries. What exactly did they discover, and who were their patients? Douwe Draaisma expertly reconstructs the lives of these and eight other ‘names’ from the science of mind and brain. Disturbances of the Mind provides a fascinating, illuminating, and at times touching insight into the history of brain research. Thanks to Draaisma’s unerring eye and elegant, engaging style, the case histories of Asperger, Bonnet, Capgras, Clérambault, Korsakoff and Gilles de la Tourette syndromes; Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases; the areas of Broca and Brodmann; Jackson’s epilepsy; and the Gage matrix are all brought to life and transformed into unforgettable tales.

Douwe Draaisma is Professor in the History of Psychology at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He is the author of Metaphors of Memory (Cambridge, 2000) and Why Life Speeds Up as You Get Older (Cambridge, 2004).
Disturbances of the Mind

Douwe Draaisma

Translated by
Barbara Fasting
Contents

Introduction: Not the Draaisma syndrome page 1

1. Towards dusk the images appear: Bonnet syndrome 11
2. A tormenting round of tremors: Parkinson’s disease 40
3. Phineas Gage’s posthumous stroll: the Gage matrix 65
4. The Celestine prophesy: Broca’s area 97
5. Sparks from a Leyden jar: Jackson’s epilepsy 126
6. Siberian brandy: Korsakoff syndrome 147
7. Go to hell, idiot! Gilles de la Tourette syndrome 169
8. A labyrinth of tangles: Alzheimer’s disease 199
9. The Mercator of neurology: Brodmann’s areas 229
10. The headquarters of madness: Clérambault syndrome 256
11. A cup of tea for the doppelgänger: Capgras syndrome 280
12. Little professors: Asperger syndrome 298
13. The Cardan suspension of science 326

Index 353