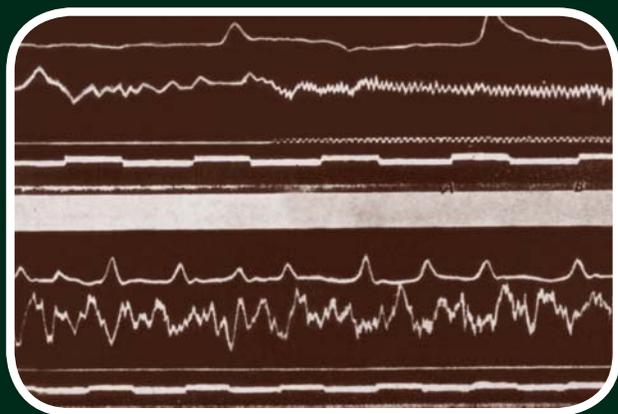
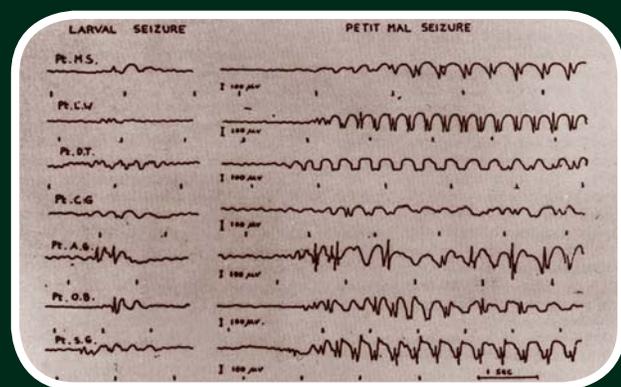


The Birth of EEG

In 1912, Russian physiologist, Vladimir Vladimirovich Pravdich–Neminsky recorded the first animal EEG, and Cybulsky and Jelenska–Macieszyna photographed EEG–recordings of experimental seizures in 1914. The first human EEG recording were made in 1924 and published in 1929, in subjects with pre–existing scalp defects, by Hans Berger. Berger was a German physiologist and psychiatrist working in Jena, and his observations passed initially unnoticed, until in 1934 Matthews and Adrian confirmed his observations in a celebrated paper in *Brain*. Berger had coined the term *elektenkephalogram*, defined the alpha rhythm (the “Berger rhythm”) and in 1933 recorded a partial seizure. However, as Grey Walter wrote: “Berger, in 1935, was not regarded by his associates as in the front rank of German psychiatrists, having rather the reputation of being a crank. . . he had one fatal weakness: he was completely ignorant of the technical and physical basis of his method. He knew nothing about mechanics or electricity.” In 1941, he committed suicide when the Nazi government removed him from his University post. The application of EEG in epilepsy became soon apparent and many discoveries were rapidly made. In 1934, Fisher and Lowenback demonstrated epileptiform spikes, in 1935 Gibbs, Davis and Lennox described interictal spike waves and the 3 cycles/s pattern of clinical absence seizures, and in 1936 Gibbs and Jasper reported the interictal spike as the focal signature of epilepsy. In 1946, Grey Walter described the responses to photic stimulation and in 1948 the



First published photo of EEG in epilepsy



Gibbs, Davis and Lennox – EEG in petit mal epilepsy

first depth EEG records were made. EEG in paediatric epilepsy was pioneered by Lennox in Boston and Pampiglione in London in the early 1950s. By the mid 1940s, EEG had been recognized to be central to the study of epilepsy and has remained its fundamental investigation. The British EEG society formed in 1942 and the American EEG Society in 1947 and many followed. The international federation, the IFSECN was in those days a far more influential scientific society than the ILAE.