Epilepsy

- Seizures caused by brain dysfunction; seizures need to be suspected for diagnosis
- Effects 1 in 100
- Easily studied on EEG due to typical firing pattern
- Has many causes e.g. genes, neurotoxins, head injury, synaptic faults

Who @ Risk
- Measured how many years of life are impaired ( higher number = larger impact)
- Epilepsy has fairly large impact as it continues throughout life

Hypochondia: The Sacred Disease (page)
- Actually described seizures before knowledge of brain and anatomy
- Identified the brain as the cause, not possession

Falling sickness: 1300 AD
- Still beliefs of possession causing illness

John Hughlings Jackson 1835-1911
- Characterised epilepsy as a disorder of the 'conduction center', that begins with abnormal firing of neurons which spreads, causing a seizure

Partial Seizures
- Effects a small portion of the cortex
  - Epileptic Area
    - Sufferer can sense psychological changes before seizure begins e.g. smell, hallucination, tingling in chest
  - Epileptic Focus
    - Origin of the seizure
  - Simple partial seizure: Jacksonian seizure
    - Neuron firing begins in motor cortex
    - Consciousness is retained in relation to motor homunculus, generally begins in hands then moves up
    - Sufferer remains conscious