

Hughlings Jackson developed a revolutionary and remarkably prescient theory of the evolution of the nervous system on the basis of his observations about its dissolution in neurological and psychiatric disease. His theory allows us to construct a useful taxonomy for disorders of the will and understand some of the contemporary findings in the cognitive neuroscience of psychiatric disorders. I will examine particularly obsessive compulsive disorder and psychopathy to illustrate what his theory has to say about the understanding of mental disorder within a neuroscience oriented framework of thinking.