

MINIREVIEW SERIES FOR THE 50TH VOLUME

Taiei Miura and Franco-Japanese friendship in psychiatry

Kenichi Takemasa

*Professor Emeritus of Kyorin University, President of Medical Society Franco-Japanese, Jiundo-Naika Hospital
Tokyo, Japan*

(Received for publication on November 4, 2000)

Abstract. Japanese medicine enthusiastically adopted many aspects of Western medicine, especially German, during and after Japan's modernization. After the war, the policy giving priority to German medicine changed greatly, and American medicine replaced German medicine in postwar days. Some people, however, question whether it is proper to get medical information one-sidedly from a single country. Faced with the situation of whether German or American medicine should occupy the dominant position in Japan, some doctors chose to establish ties with French medicine. Professor Taiei Miura (1901–1995) re-established an intimate relationship, broken off during the war, in the medical field between Japan and France. Much information was to be learned from French medicine, particularly in clinical neurology and psychiatry. In this essay, we relate the details of how Miura became interested in French medicine, went to study in France, then contributed greatly to Franco-Japanese friendship. (Keio J Med 50 (1): 8–12, March 2001)

Key words: French medicine, Medical Society Franco-Japanese (Franco-Japanese medical relationship)

Faced with the situation of whether German or American medicine should occupy the dominant position in Japan, some doctors chose to establish ties with French medicine. Professor Taiei Miura (1901–1995), who contributed much to Japanese medicine after World War II, re-established an intimate relationship, broken off during the war, in the medical field between Japan and France. This international relationship was especially developed at the medical faculty of Keio University, from which Miura graduated.

Much information was to be learned from French medicine, particularly in clinical neurology and psychiatry. There were thus doctors who wanted to go to France to study in these fields. Miura guided and encouraged young doctors to study in France in neurology and psychiatry and in other medical fields. Many doctors went to France to specialize in internal medicine, surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, radiology, otolaryngology, and neurophysiology. They conducted unique research, achieved clinically good results, and matured into educators and clinicians. This story is worthy of wider dissemination.

In this essay, we relate the details of how Miura

became interested in French medicine, went to study in France, then contributed greatly to Franco-Japanese friendship, mainly in neuropsychiatry, his specialty, and in other medical departments after returning to Japan.

Taiei Miura was born in Nagaoka, Niigata Prefecture, in 1901. His father, Taihaku, was also a medical practitioner. Taiei was the eldest son. His grandfather, Taichu, was a doctor assigned to a feudal lord. The Miuras had been doctors for generations. In 1919, after finishing Nagaoka Higher School (now Nagaoka Senior High School), he entered the premedical course at Keio Gijuku University, whose medical department had just been founded. Although most students wanted to enter national universities, he chose a private university. When asked why, he replied that he was impressed with the independence and self-respect spirit of the university's founder, Yukichi Fukuzawa.

He graduated with honors in 1925 as one of the members of the medical faculty's third graduating class, and was awarded the Nakagami Prize by the University. While a university student, he became a Catholic through activities in a society dedicated to disseminat-

ing Catholicism. It would seem that his faith and study in France played a major role in the formation of his ideas and his attitudes toward scholarship.

Concerning research, he was interested in the function of the central nervous system and human mental activity. Upon graduation, he entered the department of physiology, which was under the leadership of Professor Genichi Kato, who engaged in the study of neurophysiology. Three years later, he presented the results of his investigations in a thesis entitled “The stimulation of a paralyzed muscle” (1928), which earned him the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He became a member of the Department of Neuropsychiatry, whose chair was Professor Shichikuro Uematsu, planning to train and study as a clinician of psychiatry in the same year.

The theme of his early research activities was still connected with neurophysiology, for instance, chronaxy. He published papers – “Symptomatic constitution of pure alexia” in 1932 and “Supplement to the symptom of pure alexia” in 1933. His work attracted increasing attention in the field of clinical study. In particular, his name became wellknown with the publication of a translated version (1931) of “*Introduction à l'étude de la médecine expérimentale*” (1865) by Claude Bernard, who rendered remarkable service in the establishment of concepts and methodology in medical research. This book has been widely read by many people wrestling with medical study or clinical work. The book was published by the prestigious Iwanami-Bunko, and has gone through several editions from 1938 to the present.

Miura went to France in 1935 when he was appointed as a lecturer of neuropsychiatry at Keio University, having deeply admired French medicine through Claude Bernard and the proficiency in French shown in his translation. Miura remained in France from 1935 to 1937, conducting clinical studies and acquiring much information in neurology and psychiatry in Paris. He visited such medical facilities as Asile Sainte-Anne, Saint-Joseph, and Salpêtrière. More importantly, he made French friends and met French teachers. They included scholars and clinicians such as J. de Ajuriaguerra, P. Guiraud, Andrès-Thomas, and J. Lehrmitte. According to Miura, he learned clinical neurology especially from Andrès-Thomas who was famed as a clinical expert in pediatric neurology. Two years later, after returning to Japan, Miura produced a book, “Diagnosis and treatment of neurology” (Homeido, Tokyo, 1939) – a preeminent work at that time – based on the results of his study of French clinical neurology. This book was received favorably by major clinicians because he laid weight on the clinical aspects, whereas German neurology predominating in Japan then emphasized the histopathology of nervous sys-

tems. Among the fruits of his work in psychiatry, several papers and reviews were successively published. These major works include “Actual studies of hallucination in the French school” (1937), “Mental automatism” (1939), and “Bergson and modern psychiatry” (1950). He thus eagerly introduced the French school's view to Japanese psychiatry at a time when German psychiatry was generally dominant and centered its concepts on Kraepelin.

As mentioned above, Miura made many friends and created an internationally friendly relationship during his 2 years of study in France. A particularly close relationship with Professor Pierre Pichot deserves mention. Prof. P. Pichot has played a great part in the post-war Franco-Japanese relationship in psychiatry since around 1950. Miura lived in the *Maison du Japon* located in the *Cité Internationale Universitaire*, and Pichot also stayed there as a medical student during Miura's study in Paris from 1935 to 1937. Pichot later chaired the Department of Psychiatry, University of Paris, and served as president of the World Psychiatric Association. The friendship starting at the *Maison du Japon* lasted long after World War II and came to have great significance in the amity in psychiatry between the two nations.

P. Pichot, in an essay (1995) in mourning for Miura, wrote as follows recollecting the days of 1936: “... in Japan under the influence of the German school in neuropsychiatry, the concepts of Kraepelin and Jaspers occupied an important position, but Miura broke with this custom and built a relationship between France and Japan. Miura and I made one another's acquaintance in September 1936 when I had just arrived in Paris from my hometown to study medicine. By chance, I was given a room at the *Maison du Japon* in the *Cité Internationale Universitaire*. Taiei Miura had been there for a year. He was elected chairman of the student committee of the *Maison du Japon* because of his active and energetic vitality, which he continued to maintain throughout his life. I still keep a photo from those days, when it was the custom to take one each year on the stone steps at the entrance of the *Maison du Japon*. In the photo, we are dressed up, and he stands smiling at the center of our group, ...” (Fig. 1).

Born in La Roche sur Yon, France, in 1918, P. Pichot entered the medical faculty, University of Paris, in 1936, after elementary and secondary education in Renne. He met Miura at the *Maison du Japon* in the *Cité Internationale Universitaire* the second year after Miura reached Paris from Tokyo as a scholarship student of the French Government. Not long thereafter, World War II started in Europe in 1939 and in Japan in 1941. Pichot served in the army during the war. He graduated from the medical faculty, University of Paris, and became head doctor of wards at the Department of Psy-



Fig. 1 Dr. Taiei Miura at maison du Japon in Paris (1936).

chiatry, University of Paris, after the war in 1948. He then taught psychopathology at the Institute of Psychology, Sorbonne, University of Paris. In 1955, he became *professeur agrégé* of psychiatry, and in 1965, professor of clinical psychology. In 1971, accepting the post of chair of the Psychiatric Department (*Clinique des Maladies Mentales et de l'Encéphale*), University of Paris, he succeeded J. Delay in supervising the Department. From 1972, he served as chief of the Clinical Psychology Section, CNRS France; as a member of a special committee on psychopharmacology at the Ministry of Health and Welfare; as a member of a special committee related to psychiatry, WHO; from 1977 to 1983; and as president of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). While he was president of the WPA, he heartily supported the international activities of Japanese psychiatry in various respects.

Miura finished his 2 years of study in France and returned to Japan in 1937. World War II broke out with the German invasion of Poland in 1939, and of France in 1940, then continued until 1945. The Franco-Japanese medical friendship was interrupted by the war, in which the 2 countries were adversaries. When South Indochina, colonized by France, came under Japanese army control, Miura was sent there as a professor of Nanyo-

gakuin because of his experience of staying in France. In 1940, he began to work at St. John Sakuramachi Hospital for tuberculosis patients, set up a psychiatry section, and grappled with hospital administration. He participated simultaneously in activities as an executive member of the Tokyo Medical Association and in the establishment of the Catholic Medical Association of Japan.

With the end of the war, the Franco-Japanese medical relationship was revived, largely thanks to Miura's efforts. The students of the medical faculty of Keio University often visited him, asking for instruction, although he was not in the university teaching profession but merely a hospital clinician.

Masaharu Tsuchiya, Professor Emeritus of internal medicine, looked back those days and mused, "In my school days (1950) there was a gathering called *Foyer de nos copain* to study French in the medical faculty of Keio University. This gathering's seminar on French medicine used to be held at Sakuramachi Hospital where Dr. Miura worked. In those days, Dr. Miura was well known for his translation of "Introduction to experimental medicine," the great work of Claude Bernard. Miura was a clinician, not on the teaching staff of the university at that time, but he was something more than an ordinary clinician. Once when preparing for a

seminar, students assembled at his home and waited for him to return from his rounds. He returned home and told us, "On the way to rounds, I was thinking about what Claude Bernard said, '*conserver la santé, guérir la maladie,*' which means 'medicine is learning to keep healthy and cure illness.' We were impressed by hearing him talk about the philosophy of medicine, even though he was only a home doctor."

Many of the doctors studying under Miura thus went on to study in France. Of course, their specialties were not limited to neurology and psychiatry, Miura's fields of specialization. Takuro Sugano, who specialized in orthopedics and later taught French medical terminology at the Franco-Japanese Institute, went to France to study in 1950. In 1956, Eiichi Sugaya, whose specialty was neurophysiology and who later became a professor at Tokyo Dental College, and Masaharu Tsuchiya, who later became a professor of internal medicine at Keio University, visited France to study aggressology under J. Reilly in 1957. Masaharu Toyoda (gynecology, 1958), Akira Kawamura (internal medicine, 1958), Yasuo Fujishiro (surgery, 1959), Shozo Hashimoto (radiology, 1960) and Tadayoshi Akiba (internal medicine, 1960) successively visited France to study. The situation continues on down to the present time.

Succeeding Prof. Shichikuro Uematsu, Miura became professor of neuropsychiatry at Keio University (1953). From before that time, as president of the Medical Society Franco-Japanese and a Japanese examiner for scholarship students of French Government, he continued to work to arrange for young clinicians and researchers at Japanese universities to study in France. After becoming professor, he zealously doubled his efforts in this task.

A brief comment now is due on the history of the Medical Society Franco-Japanese. The inception of the Society began in 1926, when Prof. Charles Achard came to Japan and stated his intention of establishing the Medical Society Franco-Japanese to a group of Japanese doctors who took an interest in French medicine. The intention was realized in 1932. Staying for a time at the Maison Franco Japonaise in Tokyo, Dr. Jean Motte, a botanist and medical doctor, continued with the preparation for the founding of the society, after much consultation with Kinnosuke Miura, Mataro Nagayo, Ryukichi Hashida, Hiroshige Shiota, and others who were representatives of the Japanese Medical Society. They planned to establish a nationwide society, in addition to the Kansai Medical Society Franco-Japanese, which was already in existence. In 1934, the *Comité Médical Franco-Japonais* was started at the University Graduates' Club of Tokyo in the presence of Dr. de la Morandière, who was president of *Maison Franco-Japonaise*, Kinnosuke Miura, Japanese Ambassador to

France, Sato, and others. In 1935, the *Bulletin Medical Franco-Japonais* was issued under the editorship of Dr. Jean Motte and Dr. Taiei Miura. The *Comité Médical Franco-Japonais* held a medical exhibition on France, creating a "French medicine boom." Miura left for Paris to study when the society was established, when the bulletin was issued, and when interest in French medicine was growing in Japan. As already touched on, the relation between France and Japan was then broken off by the war.

In 1948, Miura resurrected the Medical Society Franco-Japanese in cooperation with Secretary Urey of the French Embassy, Dr. Akira Hidano, and others, and became president of the Society. The bulletin started being reissued with the first number in January 1954. The first volume, first number, of the bulletin, edited by Taiei Miura, Yasunobu Suzuki, Yoichi Yamaguchi, Takuro Sugano, and Akira Hidano, presented French medical literature extensively in every clinical department. Papers carried included "Present state of viral study in France" by Yasuichi Nagano, "Taking a glance at the hospital and medical school in France" by Takuro Sugano, and "Partial parotitis" by Professor Dechaume translated by Yasunobu Suzuki (Fig. 2).

In 1954, the French Government conferred the Order Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for Miura's services in Franco-Japanese friendship in all medical departments.

In neuropsychiatry, Miura's specialty amicable ties existed with Jean Delay, who chaired of the University of Paris in postwar days, Paul Guiraud of Ste. Anne, and Prof. Jean Lehrmitte of Salpêtrière. Above all, P. Pichot, who had been prof. agrégé under Delay since 1955, played an important part in the 2 nations' friendship, as it was already being referred to. With regard to the visits to France of so many young psychiatrists after the 1950s, P. Pichot's service was indispensable.

Many doctors from Keio University going to France included Shigeru Horiuchi, who went there immediately after his graduation in 1954, Kiyoshi Suzuki, who studied the mental health system in France in 1958; Kenichi Takemasa, who went in 1963 for the purpose of clinical study in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Paris; and Hiroaki Kohno, who went in 1967 for the clinical study of alcoholism. The following is a partial list of the doctors who went to France from the Department of Neuropsychiatry, Keio University:

Prof. Shunichiro Hayashi (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1969)

Prof. Tohru Oguchi (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1968)

Prof. Yasuo Unai (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1969)

Prof. Junichiro Akai (neuropathology, Lyon, 1970)

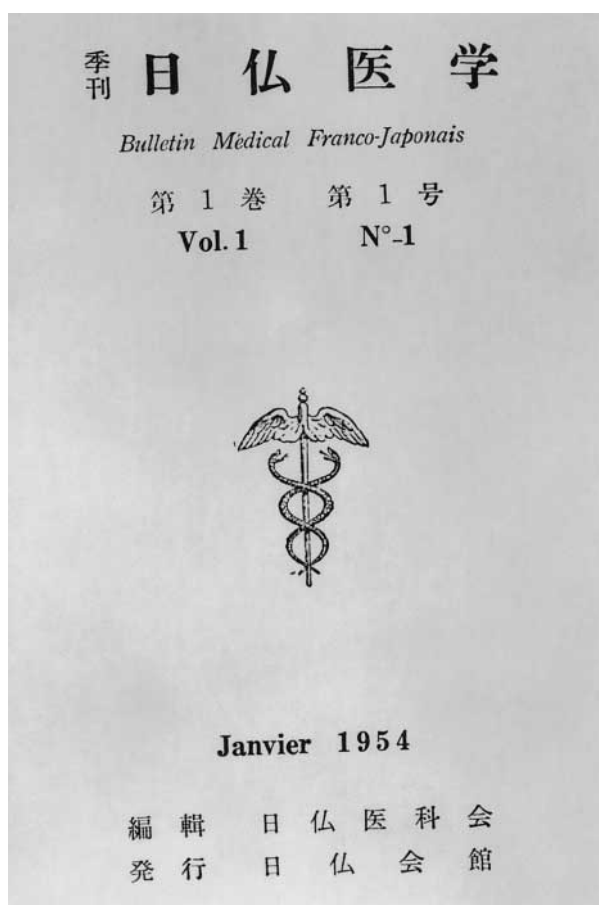


Fig. 2 Bulletin Médical Franco-japonais.

Dr. Kazuhiro Ogita (psychopharmacology, Chambéry, 1970)

Dr. Nobuo Ohtsuka (psychopharmacology, Lyon, Paris, 1971)

Dr. Satoru Saito (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1973)

Dr. Itaru Tominaga (clinical psychiatry, Lyon, 1973)

Dr. Naohiro Fujimura (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1974)

Dr. Hiromune Yoshida (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1976)

Dr. Hidemichi Hamada (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1979)

Dr. Yasuo Fujii (psychopharmacology, Chambéry, 1985)

Dr. Michinori Nakayama (clinical psychiatry, Paris, 1988)

A total of 40 medical doctors from Keio University School of Medicine went to France from the 1950s to 1990. Of these, 17 belonged to the Department of Neuropsychiatry.

Miura visited France in 1961 as president of the Medical Society Franco-Japanese at the invitation of *Comité Médical France-Japon de Paris* whose president was Prof. Robert Monod of the University of Paris and the French International Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In France, Miura was welcomed warmly by Prof. J. Delay, Prof. agrégé P. Pichot, and the other professors. He negotiated for a Japanese student reception with the above-mentioned bureau, and they reached agreement. He then, lectured on the subject connected with psychiatry and a case report of neurological diseases, and visited the universities of Lyon, Marseilles, Montpellier, and Bordeaux.

Miura, playing an important role in the introduction of French medicine to Japan, particularly in the Franco-Japanese medical relationship after World War II, retired from Keio University in 1967. He was succeeded as president of the Medical Society Franco-Japanese by Prof. Tatsuo Kobayashi of the University of Chiba in 1971. In 1975, the Japanese Government conferred on him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, for his service in the development in Japanese medicine. Miura's international activities in the medical field were mainly promoted in the Medical Society Franco-Japanese. In addition to this, he contributed to establishing the Medical Association Italy and Japan; the Order of Commendatore dell'Ordine was conferred on him by the Italian Government in 1962. He also worked to establish the Congress of the Asian-Catholic Medical Association as President of the Catholic Medical Association of Japan in 1968.

References

- 1) Kobayashi T: Cinquantenaire de la Maison franco-japonaise et la Société franco-japonaise de Médecine. Bulletin Médical Franco-japonais 1974; T14(3-4): 1-3
- 2) Takemasa K: Professeur Taiei MIURA (1901-1995), Bulletin Médical Franco-japonais 1999; T23(1): 1-8