Johann Christian Reil Encyclopedia Article

Johann Christian Reil

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Johann Christian Reil

1759-1813

German physician, physiologist, and neurologist who in 1795 founded the first scientific journal of physiology, *Archive für die Physiologie*, and in 1805 the first journal of psychiatry, *Magazin für psychische Heilkunde*. His areas of research included tissue metabolism, tissue irritability, brain function, cerebral localization, mental diseases, the structure of nerves, and the so-called "life-force" behind biochemical processes. The island of Reil in the brain is named for him.