Record Nr. UNINA9910780920403321 Autore Jacyna L. S Titolo Lost words [[electronic resource]]: narratives of language and the brain, 1825-1926 / / L.S. Jacyna Princeton, N.J.,: Princeton University Press, c2000 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-30387-2 9786612303876 1-4008-3118-0 Edizione [Course Book] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (252 p.) Disciplina 616.85/52/009 Aphasia - History Soggetti Language disorders Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- ONE. CONSTRUING SILENCE -- TWO: "THE WORD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN" -- THREE. THE DISCOURSE OF APHASIA --FOUR. JOHN HUGHLINGS JACKSON AND THE PREDICAMENT OF THE "SPEECHLESS MAN" -- FIVE. HEAD WOUNDS -- SIX. DISSONANT VOICES -- SEVEN MAKING GOOD -- CONCLUSION -- INDEX Sommario/riassunto In the mid-nineteenth century, physicians observed numerous cases in which individuals lost the ability to form spoken words, even as they remained sane and healthy in most other ways. By studying this condition, which came to be known as "aphasia," neurologists were able to show that functions of mind were rooted in localized areas of the brain. Here L. S. Jacyna analyzes medical writings on aphasia to illuminate modern scientific discourse on the relations between language and the brain, from the very beginnings of this discussion through World War I. Viewing these texts as literature--complete with guiding metaphors and rhetorical strategies--Jacyna reveals the power they exerted on the ways in which the human subject was constructed

in medicine. Jacyna submits the medical texts to various critical

with the creation of aphasiology. He considers the scientific,

readings and provides a review of the pictorial representation involved

experimental, and clinical aspects of this new field, together with the cultural, professional, and political dimensions of what would become the authoritative discourse about language and the brain. At the core of the study is an inquiry into the processes whereby men and women suffering from language loss were transformed into the "aphasic," an entity amenable to scientific scrutiny and capable of yielding insights about the fundamental workings of the brain. But what became of the subject's human identity? Lost Words explores the links among language, humanity, and mental presence that make the aphasiological project one of continuing fascination.