Neurologists and psychiatrists made the surprising discovery that up to 14 per cent of the genes associated with these two very different conditions are the same (Shutterstock). Freud’s divide between psychiatry and neurology is redundant – here’s why. The causes of motor neurone disease and schizophrenia have something important in common. Orla Hardiman. The separation of psychiatry and neurology is arbitrary. Both disciplines care for persons with brain dysfunction or brain disease. Their common ground is the clinical implications of the behavioral disturbances elicited by brain dysfunction, and immobile patient walk out of the hospital with his family is an experience that cannot easily be achieved without a full understanding of descriptive psychopathology. Defining psychopathology to delineate behavioral syndromes and to choose specific treatments is a practical effort for the trainee and the experienced clinician alike. All who accept the responsibility for the care of patients with behavioral syndromes should find useful information in this book. Neurology and psychiatry are related fields – if for no other reason, because neurological disorders can often manifest as, and get misdiagnosed as, psychiatric ones. But what’s the borderline between neurology and psychiatry? What makes one disease “neurological” and another “mental”? Are some psychiatric disorders more “neurological” than others? It’s a rather philosophical question and you could discuss it for as long as you wanted. Rather than doing that I thought I’d have a look to see which disorders are, at the moment, considered to fall into each category. To do this I did a quick sear