The Bohemian (presently part of Czech Republic) psychiatrist and neuropathologist Oskar Fischer (1876-1942), born into a German-speaking Jewish family, was an active researcher.¹ Among his scientific interest were neurodegenerative conditions, and the by him denominated ‘presbyophrenic dementia’ (presbyophrene Demenz) was one of his focus. There, he identified in a number of cases, pathological formations in the cerebral cortex he named ‘[drusiform necrosis] (drusige Nekrose), and later ‘multiple cerebral filamentous spheroids’ (Sphaerotrichia cerebri multiplex) [neuritic plaques], specifically related to the condition (1907 and 1910).³ Additionally, he revealed by silver impregnation, in a subset of his cases with plaques, pathologic changes of the neurofibrils, described as ‘coarse-fibred proliferation of the ganglion cells fibrils’ (grobfaserige Fibrillenwucherung der Ganglienzellen) (1910).³ (Figure) Similar pathological findings were already published by Alois Alzheimer, succinctly and without illustrations (1907),⁴ and in a detailed manner a time later (1911).⁵ Contemporaneously, Emil Kraepelin, in the 10th edition of his ‘Psychiatry: a textbook for students and physicians’ (Psychiatrie: ein Lehrbuch für Studierende und Ärzte) (1910), considered Alzheimer’s findings as a feature of a condition he named after him (‘Alzheimer’s disease’ [Alzheimerschen Krankheit]). He also mentioned Fischer as the author who described ‘presbyophrenia’ (Presbyophrenie) related to the presence of ‘plaques’ (Drusen), but neurofibrillary changes, he also has described, were not mentioned.⁶

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