Diagnosis in retrospect

The retrospective diagnosis of famous people has been described as one of the lowest forms of medical history. Nevertheless, scientific reports speculating on the illnesses of famous people appear regularly in the medical literature. MEDLINE lists more than a hundred such papers each year. This crossword puzzle is based mainly on such diagnoses. The clues name a famous person and give information about the illness that he or she is believed to have had. Medical abbreviations are used, and possessives have been dropped from eponymous terms (e.g., Hodgkin's would be shortened to Hodgkin).
ACROSS

1. Martin Luther; attacks of “roaring tinnitus” with vertigo at irregular intervals with no loss of consciousness
2. Arturo Toscanini; “stumbled, dropped his baton . . . music interrupted by 20–30 seconds of silence” (abbr.)
4. Edgar Degas; “he could only see around the spot at which he was looking, and never the spot itself.” Possible site for pathology
5. Ludwig van Beethoven; autopsy description of nephropathy (abbr.)
7. Charles Darwin; “sudden attacks of fear accompanied by palpitations, dizziness and shortness of breath”
10. Adolf Hitler; tremor
12. David Niven; slurred speech and progressive weakness (abbr.)
13. Samuel Johnson; verbal and motor tics, coprolalia and periodic boundless mental energy
16. Emily Brontë; pulmonary infection (abbr.)
19. Florence Nightingale; insomnia, anorexia, tachycardia, headaches and depression
21. Charles Dickens; “I have coughed from 2 to 3 in the morning until 5 or 6 and have been absolutely sleepless. Last night I took some laudanum, and it is the only thing that has done me any good.”
22. Franklin D. Roosevelt; viral infection with neurologic sequelae
23. George Gershwin; brain tumour with poor prognosis
25. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; renal complication of common childhood ailment (abbr.)
26. Frederic Chopin; chronic respiratory illness

DOWN

1. Abraham Lincoln; autosomal dominant disorder; lack of fibrillin in the skin
2. Rembrandt van Rijn; erythematous, popular skin disease with a telangiectatic lesion and rhinophyma (based on self-portrait)
3. Immanuel Kant; short- and long-term memory impairment, judgement deficit, aphasia and possibly apraxia
4. Albert Einstein; fatal vascular accident involving this vessel
5. Arthur Ashe; iatrogenic infection? (abbr.)
6. King George III; severe abdominal pain, constipation, psychiatric disorder and intermittent discoloration of urine
7. Pierre Auguste Renoir; “swelling of the metacarpophalyngeal joints and deformities of the feet”
8. George Gordon Byron; “when I dine I gorge like . . . a Boa snake”
10. William Osler; cause of death, respiratory
11. Virginia Woolf; psychiatric disorder allegedly responsible for her death by suicide (abbr.)
13. Fyodor Dostoyevsky; attacks of ecstasy followed by unconsciousness
14. Georges Cuvier; pulmonary infection
15. Emily Bronte; pulmonary infection

Dr. Jayaraman is a clinical biochemist residing in Ottawa; Dr. Joseph is an Associate Editor of CMAJ.
References