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ACUTE EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS

*An Investigation by The Association for
Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases*

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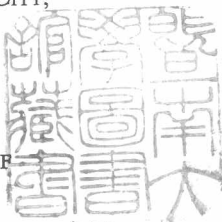
[LETHARGIC ENCEPHALITIS]

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*An Investigation by The Association for
Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases*

REPORT OF THE PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE
MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION; NEW YORK CITY,
DECEMBER 28TH AND 29TH, 1920

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF



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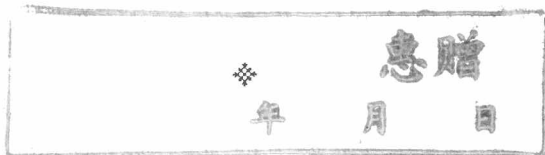
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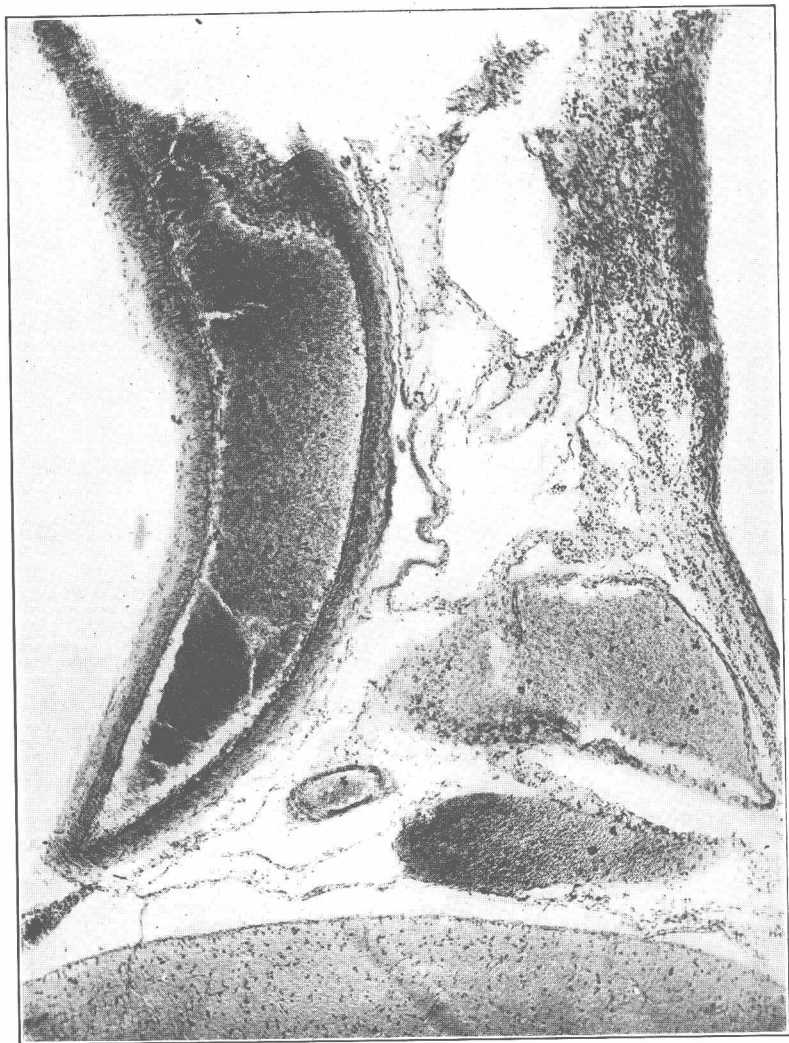
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Frontispiece

Human brain. Mononuclear cell infiltration and congestion of vessels in meninges of cerebrum in acute epidemic encephalitis.

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PREFACE

DURING the preparation of this volume for publication there was considerable discussion by members of the Publication Committee as to the best way of presenting the material which it contains. It was felt that a formal report of papers and transactions of the society would be less readable than the present form of presentation. In preparing the material the endeavor was made to harmonize two conflicting aims. It was felt that each contributor should be credited with all the facts which he had established, and at the same time it was thought unwise to include duplicate reports of work by different investigators. As a result, the Committee found it necessary to publish only such material submitted by a given contributor as had not already been submitted by another. This naturally led to the deletion of parts of contributions. It should be appreciated by both contributors and readers that this was done solely in order to avoid duplication of material, and not because of lack of excellence of any parts of the contributions received.

A further object of the Publication Committee has been to allow no contribution, either in the written report of investigators or brought out in discussion, to go unrecorded. For this reason all questions of clinical bearing submitted by the Committee and answered by contributors, are included in the text.

The Committee wishes to take this occasion to express its thanks to contributors to the volume for the detailed and painstaking studies which they have made and reported in their abstracts. In preparing the material for publication the members of the Organization and Programme Committees of the Association, after going over the various articles, recommended the above outline of publication to the

President. This outline the President approved, and thereupon assigned the various sections to different members of these Committees for editing. In succeeding volumes it may be found desirable to alter or modify this mode of presentation. In the case of this volume, blame for certain of its failures or praise for what excellence it may possess in the way of presentation should be distributed among the various members of these Committees of the Association.

P. B.

NEW YORK,
September, 1921.

INTRODUCTION¹

A NEW organized effort, a new association, operating along untried lines, has been suggested to you in the belief that it might have as a result the scientific advance of neurology and psychiatry.

From the outset the proposal met with your hearty endorsement; you have brushed aside the misgivings which, nowadays, assail all of us when anything to add to our labors is proposed; you have done this in the belief that what we are going to do now will bring substantial return to our science.

Those of us who conceived and nurtured the idea wish, first of all, to express gratitude for your immediate and hearty support. Time will show, we believe, that your faith has not been misplaced, and that the new association will bring us into closer relationship, always in the interest of our life's work.

The present era of turmoil exerts its baneful disintegrative influence upon all educational and scientific advance. If in medical research this debasement were limited to a diminution of output, the matter would be of no special concern, for it would allow time for a criticism and assimilation of much that had been presented heretofore. But unfortunately, the deficiency does not show itself in lack of production; for never before were there as many medical journals as at the present time; never before were the mail boxes of medical editors more crowded; and it must be added, the scientific value of the articles offered seems to be in inverse ratio to their number. The amount of necessary reading entailed

¹ Presidential address by Dr. Walter Timme delivered at the opening of the first meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, New York, December 28, 1920.

by this enormous output in a vast number of scattered publications becomes a serious matter, even if only as concerns time. Time expenditures can be made only out of a limited capital, of which inevitable subtractions make a rapidly diminishing fund. The burning question of the times is the intensive use of the minute. How shall we economize our time-energy unit? And then, how shall we best use it?

Specialization has seemed to solve partially our problem. But more and more is the realization driven home that specialization, far from becoming narrower must be planned in accordance with its obligations to medical science as a whole, and not exclusively to the clinic and laboratory. It must consider not only itself but also the sociological and industrial conditions of our environment. Thus viewed, specialization becomes universalization. In no field is this more in evidence than in neurology and psychiatry.

The neurology of a few years ago was content and complacent with a bald diagnosis of some disease,—let us say, for example, lead polyneuritis. The diagnosis with its prescribed treatment was all there was to it. But it is now glaringly evident that we owe a duty to the community, commensurate with that which has brought about compulsory vaccination. This duty requires us to define, in the first place, the safeguards to be erected for the protection of our fellows; we must interest ourselves further and inquire, Why should lead have singled out this particular individual? Is it a matter with him of less resistance to that particular poison, carelessness in its use, or both. Are other co-workers similarly affected or likely to be? What methods are provided by the plant to protect the workers? Are they adequate? Is there supervision? Does the state take cognizance of laxity in the enforcement of proper laws for the safety of lead workers in all plants, and are there proper state laws to insure safety to lead workers? What is the loss to the community of an improperly regulated industry? The answer to these questions implies an active and widespread investiga-

tion undertaken to improve medico-sociological conditions. In England, for instance, Sir Thomas Oliver has accomplished results in this particular field that make him a public benefactor. We cannot escape our responsibility here.

Our psychiatry would be poor indeed if, for example, it stopped with the discovery that the cause of paresis is syphilis. It is its duty to go into the sociological problems involved in the dissemination of syphilis and attempt to solve them. These problems are apparent and need not particularly be detailed now. The point I desire to make is that our specialization must be of universal application.

In practically all our work a similar situation exists. Multitudinous problems confront us. The time element, the energy factor, the bread and butter necessity—to say nothing of the opposition that is always encountered—are almost beyond encompassment. Shall we deny the responsibility? We cannot. Ours is the problem; ours as well must be the quest for the solution. The largest factors in the solution are the energy and time elements.

I think you will agree with me that much that we do as individuals in our chosen field is opportunistic. By this I mean that if in the course of our work an interesting case, or a series of such, arises or an apparently new symptom is discovered, or a new method of enquiry suggests itself, we make a memorandum, and, when time allows, we expand upon it and publish a paper. Such publications fill the medical journals. They are discrete, non-related, not properly balanced, all too often redundant and verbose; many are mere duplications and some few are reliable. There is a multiplicity of single, uncritical clinical observations to one of well-founded merit. And the number of theories of disease advanced on the flimsiest of groundwork makes the reading of medical journals much like attendance upon the moving picture: logical sequence is thrown to the winds so long as weird contrasts and rapidity of change dominate the story. But we have a ready excuse. When our work shows incoordination of thought and plan, limitation of scope, slight and

uncertain conclusions, and, as a result we are accused of superficiality, we usually fall back upon the statement that medicine in America cannot properly advance until our clinical observations and deductions are checked up, and more post-mortem material is made available. In spite of the truth which such an apology holds, I believe our position would be better if we decried less our lack of such opportunity, and bent our energy more to intensive ante-mortem study. One thing we Americans possess, and that is a vigorous initiative for combined effort. Let us make application of this quality to our present problems. Such combination of effort, to be successful, requires several conditions: First, a goal to be attained; second, a coordination of the forces available; third, a proper supervision and control to prevent overlapping or undermanning. If these factors can be furnished, results will follow; there will be concerted, coordinate action by a group of men on a definite problem without loss of time or duplication of work. It will reduce the amount of reading necessary while enhancing the interest; there will be one story in several chapters, with a conclusion.

It is in accordance with these principles that our present Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases was founded.

Let us understand at the outset that this Association is not merely one more society added to innumerable others for the bedevilment of the medical fraternity. It is congenitally different and will functionate in a manner quite its own. The discussions with their tergiversations incidental to large meetings will retire before sounder methods of getting at truth.

To outline briefly the functions of the organization which we have brought into being, to declare its aims and purposes, and to show that by its existence many of the evils before enumerated and which automatically are increasing, will be lessened or eradicated, is my chief function today.

Foremost of all, the coordination of efforts in one direction, following a plan outlined in advance with a definite