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A TEXTBOOK

of

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

with an

INTRODUCTION to the HISTORY of NEUROLOGY

By

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FIFTH EDITION, REVISED



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To FREDERICK TILNEY, M. D., Ph. D.

IN RECOGNITION
OF HIS
EMINENCE AS A NEUROLOGIST
AND
INFLUENCE AS A TEACHER

PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

THE revision of a textbook is at once a pleasant and a difficult task. The pleasure naturally derives from the mere call for a revision; the difficulty springs from the need of judiciously selecting facts worthy of incorporation in a new edition. But there is the added obligation of carefully editing the text so as to bring the book completely up to date. Every page, therefore, had to be "fine-combed."

The brief period of four years since the last edition appeared witnessed a number of advances in neurology: Chemotherapy of meningitis is practically new; headache is better understood; and electroencephalography, "degenerative" diseases, and the autonomic nervous system, have all received further study. Quite a few new syndromes demanded inclusion, and a number of minor and major changes, too numerous to mention, had to be made. But while I feel that the book has been considerably enriched, it has not been unduly expanded. And now that the task is completed, I hope that I have kept an author's faith with his readers.

Once more it is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to the publishers and to thank them for their ever cordial cooperation.

I. S. WECHSLER.

70 East 83rd Street, New York City.

PREFACE

OF all the branches of medicine, clinical neurology lends itself best to the interpretation of signs and symptoms in terms of diseased structure and function. The modern tendency is to weave into one texture anatomy, physiology, pathology, and symptomatology. This can best be done in a semiology or neurological diagnosis. The task is somewhat more difficult in the treatment of disease entities as they present themselves at the bedside. As this is essentially a textbook of clinical neurology I have attempted to present, wherever possible, the various diseases in such a way that the signs and symptoms grow out, as it were, of the anatomico-pathological substratum and are seen to be consequent upon the underlying physiological disturbance. In most instances I have outlined in a brief paragraph or two the anatomical and pathological facts on which the subsequent description of the clinical entity, its development and course, is based. This method justifies, I believe, the omission of the customary introductory chapters on anatomy and physiology; for unless they actually form part of each disease entity they have no place in a clinical neurology. Besides, special works treat those subjects much better, and no student would think of learning either anatomy or physiology from a textbook of neurology.

I have also departed somewhat from the customary practice of illustrating the text with numerous photographs of patients and relied more on reproductions of pathological specimens and anatomical drawings which permit of the interpretation of signs and symptoms and lend understanding to the clinical manifestations.

As the object of this textbook is to give a digest of what is known in neurology without stressing polemic material or detailing case reports, references to literature have been more or less consistently left out of the text. This work is based mainly on personal teaching and clinical experience, representing in a great measure an individual approach to bedside neurology, and I hope that the personal touch will make up for many of its omissions and defects. But for the benefit of those who would pursue the subject further I have given at the end of each chapter a few of the more useful references bearing on the topics under discussion. This necessitated

considerable winnowing of the literature, but I hope to have retained much of the wheat.

The field of nervous diseases has grown so vast that it is almost impossible, without making a work encyclopedic, to gather everything between two covers. I left out most of the diseases of the ductless glands hitherto included under neurology, because they more properly belong to general and experimental medicine, and discussed only such endocrine disturbances as have direct neurological implications. Similarly, I left out psychiatric material, but included a chapter on the neuroses. I also included one on Psychometric Tests, for which I am indebted to my brother, Dr. David Wechsler.

The classification of diseases presents many difficulties. Because of inevitable overlapping one does equal violence to consistency whether one follows a pathological, anatomical, or clinical classification. To be consistent with the title of the book I adhered roughly to nosology based on the last two and adopted the order followed by Oppenheim.

chology of Insanity. A General Introduction to Psycho-analysis; and Hart, The Psyof Regional Diagnosis; Herrick, Introduction to Neurology; Freud, Diagnosis of Nervous Diseases, sixth edition; Bing, Compendium buch der Neurologie (German); Sir James Purves-Stewart, The Sémiològie du Système Nerveux (French); Lewandowsky's Hand-Oppenheim's Lehrbuch, seventh edition (German); Dejerine's and Riley, The Form and Functions of the Nervous System; the benefit of those who would know more of neurology) Tilney to whom I owe acknowledgment. I would especially mention (for ences at the end of each chapter make up but a partial list of those from whose contributions I gleaned useful knowledge. The referthor whose works I consulted; but I am grateful to every writer on neurology, much as I should like to mention by name every auedness to all the writers of special books, monographs, and articles It is quite impossible for me to acknowledge individual indebt-

I wish to take this occasion to express my indebtedness to men with whom I worked so many years and whose association has been so valuable to me. Foremost among them is Professor Frederick Tilney of Columbia University. To Professors Louis Casamajor, Oliver S. Strong, Charles A. Elsberg, and S. P. Goodhart, of the same department, I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude. Most of the clinical work on which this textbook is based was done at the Vanderbilt Clinic, The Mount Sinai and Montefiore Hospitals, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge cordial and profitable association with Drs. B. Sachs, I. Strauss, I. Abrahamson, and many others

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I wish to express to my friend and associate, Dr. S. Brock, my sincere appreciation of his most valuable help in reading the manuscript; to thank Drs. Walter M. Kraus and Leon H. Cornwall for their kindness in putting at my disposal photographs of pathological material; and Dr. L. Aronson for permission to reproduce slides of specimens which he collected in Paris. I am especially grateful to Dr. L. Vosburgh Lyons for the drawings which he kindly made in illustration of the text. Finally, I wish to thank the publishers, W. B. Saunders Co., for all they have done and to assure them of my sincerest appreciation.

I. S. WECHSLER.

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CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

PART I

METHOD OF EXAMINATION

SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION

In order to arrive at a correct diagnosis of a neurological condition a systematic examination of the patient is perhaps more important than in any other field of medicine. No other branch lends itself so well to the correlation of signs and symptoms with diseased structure, but only through methodical examination can one elicit all of them or properly interpret most of them. in neurology less than in any other specialty may one permit himself a "snap" diagnosis. It may be conceded that no amount of method ever made a neurologist, but it is equally certain that the want of it often marred one. Some persons, fortunately, are endowed with a keen diagnostic sense (this really consists of very rapid, almost "unconscious," logical thinking based on extensive experience); in general, it can only be gained through scientific discipline in repeated practical examinations of patients. scheme which one follows matters comparatively little. neurologist has a method more or less his own, but all of them follow a fairly consistent order. The method presently to be described is an adaptation of the one we use in teaching at Columbia University and in the examination of patients at the Vanderbilt Clinic.

It is unwise to draw conclusions before the whole examination is completed. Diagnostic interpretation has no place either in taking a history or eliciting objective findings. Accurate observation and correct notation alone constitute a thorough examination. Therefore neither in the history nor in the examination is there room for notations such as hemiplegia, aphasia, neuritis, hysteria, and so forth. These are diagnoses which can only be made at the end of the examination. It is much better to describe the gait and attitude of the patient; the specific and detailed speech disturbance, the nature and distribution of the pain or the type of mental reaction and the behavior of the patient, and let the diagnosis logically unfold itself out of the numerous observations.

But in order to make a correct examination one must be able to evaluate properly the signs and symptoms which are elicited. For this a thorough knowledge of the physiology and anatomy of the nervous system is necessary. Unless each sign or symptom is properly understood the facts accumulated during an examination become a meaningless jumble. It is necessary to know not only what this or that sign means, but why we seek to elicit it at all. Such a "dynamic" approach to neurology obviates the need of remembering by rote a number of meaningless or eponymic signs and syndromes or their grouping into arbitrary clinical entities.

If all the facts point to the presence of a lesion of the nervous system, the next step is to localize it. A *focal diagnosis* based on knowledge of anatomy and physiology is necessary before determining the probable nature of the lesion. The latter is finally determined by proper evaluation of the history, the onset, course and development of the illness, and by a sound knowledge of pathology.

No neurological status is complete without a mental examination. This trite observation is even truer than its converse, and yet both neurologists and psychiatrists frequently ignore the maxim; though it may be said that psychiatrists are the greater sinners. Many organic neurological conditions, to mention only cerebral arteriosclerosis, tumor of the brain and neurosyphilis, are frequently accompanied by mental symptoms or actually run the course of psychoses. Every aspiring neurologist should not only learn to take a good psychiatric history, but acquire more than a smattering of mental diseases by actual contact with patients in a psychiatric institute. But more important if possible than a knowledge of the psychoses is a thorough understanding of the borderline cases or the psychoneuroses. Knowledge, insight, tact, and understanding of normal human behavior in all its biological and social aspects are necessary for a proper approach to the problem of the neuroses.

Owing to the tremendous growth of neurology as a specialty the fact is sometimes overlooked that it is closely linked with internal medicine. Indeed, a neurological diagnosis frequently can only be based upon a sound knowledge of medicine, the neurological condition in many instances being merely the incidental expression of an underlying general pathologic state. To make a diagnosis of hemiplegia and ignore the nephritis or endocarditis which may be the cause of it, or to overlook pernicious anemia in stating that the patient has combined sclerosis, is to show skill in neurological technic without practising medicine. A more correct point of view is to regard every patient who shows neurological symptoms as a medical "case." Therefore every neurological status should include exam-

ination of the heart and lungs, palpation of the pulse and abdomen, search for glands, examination of the urine, blood pressure and temperature determination, sometimes a rectal or vaginal examination, and occasionally a complete blood count or blood chemistry determination or x-ray examination.

Finally, a complete and detailed history is almost as essential as an examination. While it is unwise to jump at conclusions, an accurate history very often points to a diagnosis even before a neuro-

logical examination is completed.

ANAMNESIS

One elicits the present, past and family history practically in the same way as in any other medical condition, but there are a number of facts which have special bearing in a neurological case. Before taking a history it is well to let the patient state his complaints in his own words. Meanwhile the examiner observes his manner, attitude, behavior, and emotional reaction. Particularly is this important with neurotics, toward whom one should assume a sympathetic but not too intimate attitude. One often hears a patient complain of terrible pain or headache with a smile on his face, and another bemoan his loss of memory by reciting with meticulous accuracy innumerable details of his ailment. After the patient has told his story without any suggestions on the part of the examiner a number of questions may be put to fill in the gaps. It is particularly important to ascertain, if possible, the exact date of onset of the illness, whether it came on suddenly or gradually, what was the character of the first sign or symptom, and whether the condition is better or worse, constant or remitting. It is obvious that a vascular insult is generally apt to give sudden or acute symptoms, that a tumor or some degenerative process will show gradual onset and progressive course while psychogenic disorders and especially multiple sclerosis are characterized by remissions. It is also well to ascertain whether there were any precipitating factors, such as mental or emotional upsets and trauma. In the case of trauma to the head the question of unconsciousness and its duration, convulsions, bleeding from the ears, eyes, nose and mouth, and subsequent headache, memory or personality defects must all be investigated.

The question of previous attacks of unconsciousness or convulsions is particularly important. Many a hysteric complains of fainting spells during which, it is found on closer inquiry, they hear and know what is going on about them. Is there complete amnesia for the "spell"? Has there been tongue biting, incontinence of urine, subsequent somnolence or headache? Were there localized

(jacksonian) or generalized tonic or clonic twitchings, followed by paralysis? With reference to headache it is well to find out whether it is local or diffuse, limited to one side of the head (migrainous), paroxysmal or constant, diurnal or nocturnal, aggravated by coughing or sneezing (intracranial pressure), and accompanied by dizziness or vomiting. Has the vomiting anything to do with meals or is it spontaneous, "projectile" in nature and not accompanied by nausea? Vertigo especially should be properly evaluated. Some patients complain of dizziness when they mean "nervousness," fulness in the head, "swimming before the eyes," and what not. True giddiness consists either of a subjective sensation of turning or falling or objective vertigo, as if the floor, ceiling, or house were turning about oneself. It is accompanied by tendency to fall, occasionally by nausea or vomiting, and sometimes by pallor or sweating.

Inquiry should be made about the occurrence of speech disturbances (dysarthria and aphasia, v. i.), tremors, special weaknesses or paralysis, ataxia, that is, staggering gait, especially in the dark. Among disturbances of vision it is particularly important to ask about double vision (diplopia), bearing in mind the possibility of encephalitis, syphilis, or multiple sclerosis. Subjective disturbances of hearing (tinnitus, hissing, roaring noises) may point to a cerebellopontine angle tumor even before deafness and other objective findings confirm the diagnosis. With reference to winary disturbances inquiry should be made into the question of polyuria, nocturia, difficulty in starting the stream, incontinence or dribbling, retention, urgency, frequency, and enuresis. The question of the kind (dull, burning, sharp, etc.) and location of the pain, its direction, intensity, and whether accompanied by numbness, is also important. Is there a girdle sensation, or a feeling as of walking on carpet? Does the patient suffer from insomnia or excessive somnolence by day? Is sleep disturbed by dreams accompanied by anxiety? Excessive thirst, polydipsia (pituitary, infundibulum, interbrain), polyphagia, anorexia (nervosa), sweating, constipation, excessive use of alcohol or tobacco, gain or loss of weight are to be inquired into. The question of menstruation, amenorrhea, natural or artificial menopause are important, especially in relation to disturbances of the glands of internal secretion.

Inquiry into the sexual life of the patient requires knowledge, skill, and tact. Boys and men should be asked directly whether they masturbate (or a simpler expression used if they do not understand) and promptly assured that it is not an "awful" thing in order to forestall a possible denial. (Self-gratification is infinitely more descriptive and less odious than self-abuse.) With girls and women the same question can be put more tactfully, but ultimately