

The Diagnosis and Treatment of **CONVULSIVE DISORDERS IN CHILDREN**

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A GUIDE FOR THE
GENERAL PRACTI-
TIONER in the diag-
nosis and treatment of
epilepsy written from
the viewpoint and the
personal experiences
of a pediatrician.

THE AUTHOR has had the opportunity to study and treat a large group of epileptic children over the past 17 years. The data in this book are based on the combined and correlated clinical and electroencephalographic studies of over 4000 epileptic children observed in the Epilepsy Clinic of The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

ADDED FEATURES: A chapter dealing with the social management of epilepsy was written by Dr. Francis F. Schwentker.

The section on the surgical treatment of epilepsy was written by Dr. A. Earl Walker.

(continued on front flap)

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THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF
CONVULSIVE DISORDERS IN CHILDREN

Dedicated to
FRANCIS F. SCHWENTKER
*whose sincere interest and constant encouragement have guided
this work*

Foreword

IT IS DOUBTFUL whether in 1939 when Mrs. Harriet S. Lederer made a bequest to The Johns Hopkins Hospital to establish a fund to be used for "investigation in the cause and cure of epilepsy" she herself realized what an important contribution she was making to the welfare of epileptics. At that time the treatment of epileptics was on a haphazard basis. In the epilepsy clinic, supported by her bequest, studies were made of the clinical aspects and data were compiled on the thousands of patients who came for treatment.

From this material Dr. Edward M. Bridge has already published one book, an analysis of the scientific data accumulated. When Dr. Livingston became director of the epilepsy clinic, he was impressed by the frequent lack of knowledge of epilepsy on the part of the general practitioner who had referred the patient. He conceived the idea that there was need for a book which would cover this problem. He first gathered his material together in the form of a series of lectures presented at the staff conferences of the Harriet Lane Home. He then assembled an exhibit which has been shown at a number of medical meetings. The idea that these two should be incorporated originated with Mr. Charles C Thomas, whose ear is always close to the ground. Dr. Livingston was persuaded to gather his material into a book which could be a guide to the practicing physician in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. This he has done at no small expense to himself both in terms of time and finances. It is worthy of comment in these socialistic days that a pediatric practitioner dependent on his income from practice would give freely the enormous time required to write such a book with no thought other than that it might be helpful to epileptics of our country. In this he has had the loyal support of his wife who, I suspect, is responsible for some of the neatly turned phrases which appear in the text.

Dr. Livingston recognized that there was a need for practical information on the part of the general practitioner. He has attempted to supply this in the present volume and has, I think, succeeded admirably.

FRANCIS F. SCHWENTKER

Preface

THE PURPOSE of this book is to present the personal experiences and viewpoint of a pediatrician who has had the opportunity to study and treat a large group of epileptic children over the course of the past 17 years. The data presented herein are based on combined and correlated clinical and electroencephalographic studies made on over 4,000 epileptic children observed in the Epilepsy Clinic of The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

No attempt is made to discuss the mechanism of seizures nor to correlate the clinical manifestations of seizures with the site of origin of the neuronal discharge. This book is primarily intended for the general practitioner of medicine.

The chapter dealing with the social management of epilepsy was written by Dr. Francis F. Schwentker. The section dealing with the surgical treatment of epilepsy was written by Dr. A. Earl Walker.

SAMUEL LIVINGSTON

Baltimore, Maryland

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The editorial and administrative staffs of Charles C Thomas, Publisher, have also been helpful and cooperative.

SAMUEL LIVINGSTON

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