BRAIN DISEASES

A. BIEMOND

NEUROLOGICAL UNIVERSITY CLINIC,
WILHELMINA GASTHUIS, AMSTERDAM (THE NETHERLANDS)

BRAIN DISEASES

A. BIEMOND

NEUROLOGICAL UNIVERSITY CLINIC,
WILHELMINA GASTHUIS, AMSTERDAM (THE NETHERLANDS)

ELSEVIER PUBLISHING COMPANY
Amsterdam London New York
1970

ELSEVIER PUBLISHING COMPANY
335 Jan van Galenstraat
P.O. Box 211, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

ELSEVIER PUBLISHING CO. LTD.
Barking, Essex, England

AMERICAN ELSEVIER PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
52 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York, New York 10017

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR FOR JAPAN:
NANKODO COMPANY LTD.,
PUBLISHERS & BOOKSELLERS
42-6 Hongo, 3-Chome, Bunkyo, Tokyo 113, Japan

Library of Congress Card Number: 68-15618

Standard Book Number: 444–40686–7

With 228 illustrations of which 3 in full colour

PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS

Preface

While the title of this book requires no elucidation, it may be useful to explain the way in which it came to be as well as the goal at which it aims.

This is the first English edition of a book which was first published in Dutch in 1946 and has since gone through several editions, the latest of which was published in 1961.

The basic principle of this book is the composition of a clinical symptomatology on the basis of personal observations verified anatomically, preferably by post-mortem examination. From 1930 on, I have systematically recorded the macroscopic and microscopic findings obtained from the brains of patients who died in the Neurological University Clinic, Wilhelmina Gasthuis, Amsterdam.

The notes from which this book has gradually emerged and which have supplemented its further editions, were made year after year during joint sessions in which the clinician, the pathologist and later also the neuropathologist met regularly around the autopsy table in order to verify the clinical conception of a given case against the reality of the material substratum.

By systematic analysis of representative, sufficiently large series of anatomically verified cases from various periods, as indicated in the text, it was possible to gain an adequate insight into the incidence of the various disease pictures, at least in The Netherlands, and into the practical significance of the clinical symptoms involved.

We are living in an era in which the, admittedly indispensable, "mechanical" diagnosis of brain diseases by means of pneumoencephalography, arteriography, electroencephalography, echoencephalography, scintigraphy, etc., threatens to undermine the importance of clinical neurological investigation.

This book attemps to demonstrate, on the basis of an extensive anatomically verified material, that the carefully elaborated history and the simple diagnostic craft in many cases lead to a reliable result, or at least indicate which of the many modern methods of investigation should be preferably used in order to ascertain the diagnosis.

The first, general part of the book discusses such subjects as the known cerebral syndromes and the pathology of the cranial nerves, always with reference to the principal anatomical and physiological data in so far as they must be considered important for the neurological diagnosis. The next, special part discusses the pathology proper and comprises the majority of the statistical data.

In order to make each chapter as comprehensive as possible and reduce the number of references to a minimum, some facts are mentioned in the general as

well as in the special part. Since it is the purpose of this book to present the experience gained in a large clinic over a period of many years in a conveniently arranged form, I have from the onset decided not to make systematic mention of the experiences of other authors.

The alphabetically arranged bibliography which concludes the book is therefore limited and preferably lists, besides a number of original publications, communications on unusual syndromes, with which the author's own experience is insufficient. I am aware of the fact that this choice has been a relatively random one; but I believe that it enhances the readability of the book.

An extensive index has been included in an effort to facilitate rapid orientation in the event of diagnostic difficulties. However, the diversity of syndromes encountered in clinical practice is so great that no book – and certainly not this book which above all presents personal experiences – can hope even to approach completeness. It will therefore fail to answer many a question. Nevertheless, I hope that it can be of useful assistance to the practitioner, neurologist and neurosurgeon in the difficult field of the diagnosis of brain diseases.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all who in the course of the years have assisted me in composing and revising this book. To begin with, I must mention the numerous photographs of postmortem material made available to me by the Pathological Anatomical Institute (Prof. Dr C. A. Wagenvoort).

I made grateful use also of the vast neurosurgical experience of Prof. Dr. W. Noordenbos, and of the electroencephalographic data supplied by Dr W. J. M. Hootsmans. I have been forced to limit myself in reproducing neuroradiological photographs, with which Dr H. W. Stenvers was kind enough to help me.

I also thank all other members of the staff of the neurological clinic, for the attention they gave to certain details of this work.

Special thanks are due to my assistant, Dr A. R. Kühler, who prepared the extensive index with great accuracy and was of constant assistance to me in compiling the bibliography.

It should be borne in mind that the book was not originally written in English, but that the text presented here faithfully reflects the author's intentions.

A. Biemond

Contents