

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

By

FRANK A. ELLIOTT

M.B., Ch.B. (Cape Town), F.R.C.P.

Assistant Physician to Charing Cross Hospital
Physician to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital
Neurologist to Bolingbroke Hospital

BRODIE HUGHES

Ch.M. (Birm.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Birmingham
Surgeon-in-charge of the Department of Neurosurgery
Birmingham United Hospitals

J. W. ALDREN TURNER

M.A., D.M. (Oxon), F.R.C.P.

Neurologist to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, London

Edited by

FRANK A. ELLIOTT



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PREFACE

This book is intended for those who are undergoing postgraduate training in medicine rather than for the junior student or the professed neurologist. With this object in view, an attempt has been made to present the common problems of neurology within a reasonable compass and to avoid the rare, the recondite, and the contentious. Technical jargon and eponymous terms have been avoided wherever possible. Clinical phenomena have been explained in terms of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, both in Section I, which is mainly concerned with the principles of neurological diagnosis, and in Section II which contains a systematic description of individual diseases.

The subject matter has been divided between the contributors in accordance with their particular interests, and it will not escape notice that a surgeon has collaborated in what is primarily a medical textbook, an innovation which recognises the fact that in recent years a considerable and important part of neurological practice has come to be shared between the physician and a newly evolved type of clinician, who may be described as a neurologist who practices surgery. Much has been omitted which might profitably have been included in a larger volume, and consequently the balance of emphasis may seem incorrect to those who are brought by geographical or other circumstances into contact with a selection of cases different from that which forms the basis of this book. It is hoped that the short bibliography appended to each section will serve to correct any bias which may have crept in as a result of the limitations of personal experience. The brevity of some of the sections on treatment will do much to sustain the charge of therapeutic nihilism which is so often levelled at neurologists, but I feel that there is nothing to be gained by the continued advocacy of ineffective nostrums. Specific measures of established value, on the other hand, have been described in full.

We have drawn freely upon the work of so many authors that it is impracticable to mention them by name, and we can but express our indebtedness to them all, as also to our teachers, our colleagues, and

our secretaries for making this book possible. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the unfailing courtesy and help received from the Publishers, and to thank my collaborators for making the editorial task so light.

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FRANK A. ELLIOTT. .

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