



CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

NEWSLETTER



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Dear Fellow Congressmen:

Memories are made of this! The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons was an overwhelming success. The proceedings started with an exceptional turnout for the Postgraduate session of over 75 participants. The group met at the Statler and three busses were waiting to take us to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and later to the National Institutes of Health for a stimulating program. A guided tour of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology was extremely interesting, both from a medical and a taxpayer's point of view. The trip to the Statler was brightened by a quick Greyline tour of "New".

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

PREREGISTRATION -- Those who took advantage of Ed Weiford's Preregistration forms, the initial morning of the Meeting began very smoothly. This is an innovation which we should be sure to keep. The only disadvantage was the difficult paper work and bookkeeping for our Secretary-Treasurer where refunds had to be made. Lets not spoil a good thing!

BUSINESS MEETING -- The election of new officers resulted as follows:

President	Dr. Raymond K. Thompson
Vice President	Dr. Philip D. Gordy
Secretary - Treasurer	Dr. Richard L. DeSaussure

New Members of the Executive Committee are:

Dr. Edward Weiford
Dr. John Russell

COMMITTEE ON NEUROLOGICAL DISABILITY -- George Manning's Committee has met several times during the past year and have had at their meetings civil court and industrial commission judges, lawyers, insurance company representatives, psychiatrists and psychologists. The Committee, as was to be expected, learned more about the difficulties of disability evaluation than could possibly be communicated to the membership in report. The difficulties were often semantic. It was found that not only did doctors and lawyers frequently differ concerning the meaning of words, but there was considerable difference among the doctors themselves.

There were differences of opinion between doctors and lawyers concerning the nature of disability and the inherent ability to determine it. It was found that a judge wanted one thing from a neurosurgeon, a plaintiff's attorney something else, and a defense attorney a third. Frequently, the neurosurgeon felt that he could honestly give only a fourth viewpoint.

A great deal of the meeting time was spent working out these and other differences. You might expect that there was some unanimity of opinion among neurosurgeons concerning specific neurological deficits. There is not. Voluminous questionnaires were returned which have not been recently evaluated. A sample problem was submitted concerning the limitation of functions resulting from the severance of the median nerve in the major arm. The opinions concerning impairment of function varied from 0 to 100 per cent, for the radial nerve from 10 to 85 per cent! In the definition of concussion as stated in the questionnaire 119 agreed, 115 disagreed. None the less, the Committee felt that the answers to these questionnaires were invaluable and they wish to thank the membership for their efforts in answering including those who replied in a highly critical fashion amplifying their opinions. It is the Committee's decision that its proper function is to prepare a guide for the use of the younger neurosurgeons for testimony in court. This guide will attempt to delineate to some degree the bona fide perimeters of expert neurosurgical opinion, and it will attempt to show the neurosurgeon a reasonable range of impairment of function resulting from injury to the nervous system. The Committee will submit questionnaires in the future concerning the common posttraumatic neurotic states which follow injury to the nervous system and its coverings, especially in relationship to the duration of symptomatology following litigation.

The Committee found that there was much opinion, but practically no specific information on this, and it will ask the membership to be specific. The projected plan is to eventually submit certain recommendations to various legal bodies concerning the changing of certain laws which now produce obvious inequities. The Committee would like to second the adoption of the Resolution of the Neurosurgical Society of America that the term "Whip-lash-syndrome" be dispensed with and that we substitute for the uncomplicated case the term "flexion-extension sprain of the neck".

SURVEY COMMITTEE -- This committee, headed by John Russell, is doing a wonderful job. Undoubtedly you have seen the announcement in the Journal of Neurosurgery concerning the aid of this committee to the placement of neurological surgeons. You also should have received the Directory of Neurological Surgeons in the United States. This reports on a total of 963 neurological surgeons of the United States including territories, possessions and in the military service.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE -- The International Congress in Brussels was well attended by our members and the meeting was an obvious success. Plans are under way for the next International Congress meeting which will be held in Washington, D.C. in 1961. This meeting will be for the neurosurgical section alone. Dr. Paul Bucy spoke concerning the financial support necessary for this international meeting and the Executive Committee has under consideration a donation to be raised by a \$10.00 assessment.

PROFESSIONAL MEETING -- The papers presented will be published in their entirety in Volume V of Clinical Neurosurgery. A special note is in order concerning the guest of honor, Dr. Francis Grant. He presented the society with a wealth of scientific and paternal advice. In return he received a spontaneous show of approval and affection from the members. In addition, a special luncheon was held for him by his former residents. At this function an oil portrait of Dr. Grant was presented to him. This will hang at the University of Pennsylvania in appreciation of his work as an outstanding neurosurgeon and teacher.

Dr. Grant wrote the following letter to Fred Rehfeldt. "I am much indebted to you and your group on two counts; primarily for the privilege of being asked to talk to you, and secondly, for the very pleasant time you gave Mrs. Grant and me in Washington.

Seldom have I seen a more attentive audience or a better organized meeting. Three papers in three days is an unusual amount of activity for me but your meetings were conducted so smoothly and easily without any sense of urgency that I enjoyed them all.

Please convey my thanks to the Congress and your officers for their assistance in making my association with you so much fun."

The Washington meeting was very well attended. At last count there were 200 members and 102 guests, with 135 auxillary members and guests. The "free afternoon" on Friday was filled with movies and ten minute papers on an optional basis. The present Program Committee, headed by Pete Sayers, would like to have comments on this feature from the members.

DAILY BULLETIN -- Continuation of a fine feature inaugurated in Chicago was the Daily Bulletin edited by Murl Kinal and William Hegarty.

Much of their material is carried over in this Newsletter for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

COMMITTEES -- There is a great deal of behind the scenes work which is done by our committees and certainly last year's committees did a remarkable job and deserve our thanks. The retiring members of the Executive Committee deserve special recognition. Martin Sayers, Robert Mabon, and Bland Cannon have contributed much and next time you see them, TELL THEM SO!

The Executive Committee met several times and the following committees were appointed for next year.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Edward Weiford, Chmn.

William Hegarty
Murl Kinal
Robert Weyand
John Kendrick
Roy Tyrer
Bernard Shuer

POST-CONVENTION TOUR

Bernard Shuer, Chmn.

Walter Scheuerman
Jackson Mense

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

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James Johnson
Robert Jones
Flemming Jolley
Jack Siefert
Charles Carton
Harry Steelman
A. C. Lisle
John Pace

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Louis Gogela
J. W. Barrett
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David Freeman
Kenneth Cummings
Sam Hanzel

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Orlando Andy
George Austin
Franklin Earnest
Pomeroy Nichols
Robert McLaurin
John Williams

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Daniel Meub
John Hetherington
Warren Clary
Harry Mount
William Hunt
Mrs. M.P. Sayers

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E. J. Bishop
Jack Siefert
Glenn Cross
Christian Keedy
J. W. Cluff
E.A. Smolik

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Nathaniel Hollister
Frederick Rehfeldt
Richard Brzustowicz
Charles Wilson
William Hunt
William Evans

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James McFadden
Luther Martin

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Lee Christopherson
Robert Green
William Mosberg

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Walter Boehm
Howard McAlhany
Gerald Winokur
Courtland Davis
John Williams

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Ralph Dawson
Sam Hanzel
Edward Kloos
Homer McClintock
Joseph Ransohoff
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Walter Boehm
Fariss Kimbell
Gerald Winokur

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

George Winokur, Chmn.

Rembrandt Dunsmore
Frederick Murtagh
Henry Suckle
J. Hugh Webb

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Courtland Davis, Chmn.

L. M. Davey
Jack Cooper
Donald S. Bickers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -- The election of Richard DeSaussure to Secretary-Treasurer left a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Robert Weyand was appointed to fill the opening for the coming year.

SAN FRANCISCO MEETING -- The eighth annual meeting of the Congress will be held at the St. Francis Hotel on October 29, 30, 31, and November 1, 1958. A postgraduate session is planned for October 29, and the regular meeting to be held on the remaining days. The guest of honor is to be Dr. A. Earl Walker.

The St. Francis Hotel is situated in the heart of the city overlooking historic Union Square and is San Francisco's largest hotel. Reservation blanks will be sent to you in the March Newsletter, but reservations can be made before this if you desire by writing directly to the hotel. The entire Mezzanine floor will be devoted to the meeting and has recently been completely redecorated. This indeed should be an outstanding meeting.

A post-convention tour to Honolulu, Hawaii, is under serious consideration. All members interested are urged to contact Dr. Bernard Shuer, 336 West Woodruff Street, Toledo, Ohio, who is the chairman of arrangements for post-convention tours. It has been tentatively planned that the group will leave San Francisco by plane on November 1, 1958, and spend seven days in Hawaii. Dr. Shuer states, "It has been our experience in the past that there has been a wealth of exchange as regards neurosurgical experiences and neurologic problems during these post-convention trips."

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING -- This meeting is to be held at the beautiful new Americana Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, on November 5, 6, and 7, 1959.

ET CETERA -- The Congress of Neurological Surgeons can be proud of their meetings. The Washington meeting was not only well planned with an excellent program, but was run off in a very smooth manner. It is fitting that we congratulate and give our thanks to our hard working president of last year, Fred Rehfeldt. WELL DONE FRED!

Yours truly,

Robert D. Weyand, M.D.
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