

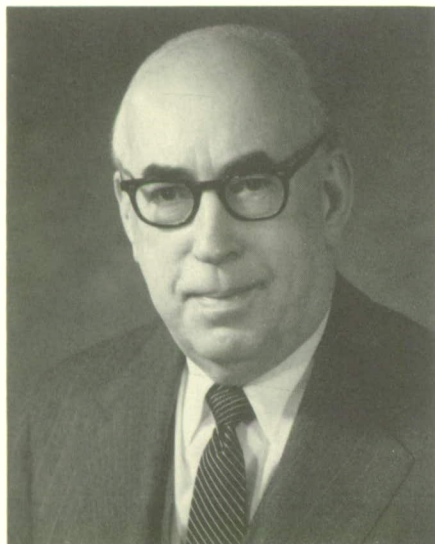
# NEWSLETTER

## CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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### C. MILLER FISHER, M.D.



### 1983 HONORED GUEST

For the first time in the history of the Congress a nonneurosurgeon will be the Honored Guest. C. Miller Fisher (CMF) was born in the small town of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada on December 5, 1913. After graduation from high school he entered Victoria College in the University of Toronto where he enrolled in a special seven-year course which combined a science BA and MD program. While accomplishing an outstanding academic record, he was a member of the University swimming and water polo teams.

Following graduation from medical school in 1938, he won a highly competitive internship at the Henry Ford Hospital and in 1939, went to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal as a medical resident. World War II was looming and in April of 1940, he entered the Navy but in a somewhat unusual fashion. A naval surgeon on the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital applied for transfer but could only do this if he could find another physician to replace him in the Navy. CMF volunteered and divided his time between the residency and examining recruits. After France fell, the call came for volunteer surgeon-lieutenants to go to England and Dr. Fisher went on loan to the Royal Navy in September, 1940. His assignment was as a general medical officer at the Portsmouth Naval Base on the south coast of England with his time being divided between medical care, training for defense against a possible invasion of England, and running to air raid shelters.

After a few months he was placed as a medical officer on a cruiser. Early in the morning of April 4, 1941, while steaming toward Africa, his cruiser was engaged in surface action by a German raider and sunk. He spent nine hours in the water before he was picked up by the German vessel. He was transferred to a prison camp in northern Germany where he stayed for three-and-a-half years.

In September, 1944, during the repatriation of prisoners, he was sent back to Canada and assigned to the Naval Hospital in Halifax. About this time it was realized that CMF had not had the benefit of a period of specialized training which the Canadian government had been giving medical officers serving in the Forces. Under this program he returned to the Royal Victoria Hospital to continue training in medicine with a special interest in endocrinology and diabetes. During this time he had a two month rotation on Neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI). Not only was he stimulated by this contact with neurology but he apparently impressed Dr. Wilder Penfield who offered him a position at the MNI which he accepted.

During his training he developed an interest in hypertensive encephalopathy and conducted a careful follow-up study on patients who had had a lumbodorsal sympathectomy for hypertension. At the end of his neurologic training, Dr. Penfield proposed that he go abroad for further training in cerebrovascular disease. Dr. Roy Swank felt strongly that there was only one person with whom to train, Dr. Raymond D. Adams at Boston City Hospital. CMF went to Boston on January 1, 1949, spending the next year in Neuropathology and enjoying the teaching of both Dr. Adams and Dr. Denny-Brown. This was his first experience with morbid anatomy and his interest became centered in Cerebrovascular Pathology.

**1983 ANNUAL MEETING  
NEW  
TECHNOLOGY  
IN  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY  
AND  
EDUCATION**