



PEDIATRIC EPILEPTOLOGY: That children may someday live free of seizures

THIS two-part publication includes the proceedings of the Cleveland Clinic International Epilepsy Symposium on Pediatric Epileptology, which was held May 19–21, 1988. The symposium was the first convocation of its kind to be devoted entirely to pediatric epilepsy. Its mission was twofold: to bring together physicians from all over the world who share a common interest in children with seizure disorders, and to provide a forum for an exchange of information and ideas about this topic.

The response was overwhelming: the meeting was attended by 385 persons from 29 countries throughout North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, India, the Orient, and Australia. Seventy original abstracts were presented during periods of open communication, and 28 formal presentations and workshops were given by 49 faculty members. This response demonstrated the high level of interest in pediatric epilepsy among physicians throughout the world. This burgeoning interest is very exciting, because it is a strong portent for accelerated growth and development in the field over the next few years. We hope that the meeting and its publication will catalyze further efforts in this direction, leading someday to a cure for childhood seizure disorders.

With this publication, we present to a larger audience our labors for the symposium. In many cases, these papers are the summary of a life's work. Countless reviews have been written on most of these topics, but usually by authors who summarized the works of other masters. Here, the masters speak for themselves, contributing their own personal perspectives on the problems that have dominated their professional efforts. This is true for each of the papers in this collection. For example, Dr. Janz's analysis of the juvenile myoclonic

epilepsy that bears his name is based on decades of personal experience with hundreds of affected patients; this is also the case for the report from Drs. Loiseau and Duché on benign childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes, and for the analysis from Drs. Aicardi and Gomes of other types of childhood myoclonic epilepsies. Likewise, the reviews from Dr. Rasmussen and colleagues on the chronic focal encephalitis that bears his name, and on the hemispherectomy operations which were pioneered at the Montreal Neurologic Institute, are the fruit of a half-century of careful work in the field. Space does not permit me here to mention why *each* of the works in these volumes is so special, but fortunately the Table of Contents speaks clearly for itself.

It was truly an honor to work with these authors during production of this publication. To them and to those at The Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation who worked so hard to make the symposium a success, and to the pharmaceutical companies of Parke-Davis, Ciba-Geigy, and Abbott who provided generous financial support of the symposium, I must express my gratitude.

We hope these volumes will be of help to physicians throughout the world who care for children with seizure disorders, and aid us in our efforts so that children may live a better life.

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