Epilepsy and employment. A community based survey in an area of high unemployment

ted by those qualified to interpret them only after a decision on recruitment has been made on non medical grounds. Employers may need guidelines concerning suitability for particular types of work, either from the patient's doctor, the occupational health service or from government bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive. Aretaeus gave the first description of cerebral paralyses (motor disorders) and the first account of general paralysis (dementia or mental confusion). He recognized the tendency of seizures to recur once established. Employers should be encouraged to comply with established guidelines for the employment of disabled persons to achieve greater success in this area.

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5 Pond DA, Bidwell BH. A survey of epilepsy in fourteen general practices. II. Social and Psychological aspects.

Neurological stamp

Aretaeus of Cappodocia (130–200)

Aretaeus was the first to describe the aura and hallucinations preceding epilepsy and noted the tendency of seizures to recur once established. He differentiated nervous diseases and mental disorders, described hysteria, headache, mania and melancholia. The cerebral paralyses were closely studied and he observed that in a cerebral lesion the paralyses was crossed, but this was not the case with a spinal lesion. This was explained in terms of decussation of nerves.

This recent stamp (1990, Stanley Gibbons 249) was issued by Transkei as part of "The conquest of diabetes series." Aretaeus gave an early account of the disorder.

L F HAAS
Aretaeus of Cappodocia (130-200).

L F Haas

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