

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.<sup>18</sup> A small proportion of patients with epilepsy are severely disabled by frequent seizures or associated handicaps such as cognitive impairment and need sheltered employment. Employers should be encouraged to comply with established guidelines for the employment of disabled persons<sup>19</sup> to achieve greater success in this area.

The authors are grateful for all the help and cooperation given by Drs Ian Ruffett, Geoffrey Stout, Roger Thornham and their partners.

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## Neurological stamp

### Areataeus of Cappodocia (130-200)

Areataeus 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." Areataeus gave an early account of the disorder.

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