Editorial announcement

JNNP in the Decade of the Brain

This year and this volume introduce a further change to the content of the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry which should keep the journal at the forefront of neurological publishing. In the first issue of 1990 I recounted the history of the journal from its first publication in 1920, under the title Journal of Neurology and Psychopathology, and reintroduced editorials, which had been a feature of some earlier series. With this issue we introduce a series of regular reviews centred around the theme of "neurological emergencies". These will be gathered together at the end of the year in a book of the same title, which we hope will have a wide readership not only among neurologists but also general physicians, or internal medicine specialists, throughout the world. These reviews will provide up to date statements about the management of neurological emergencies. To cover the subject within a reasonable space, brevity will sometimes require a didactic approach. I hope that readers who take issue with proposals put forward by our authors will offer letters for publication which will provide a stimulating discussion, reflecting practice in many different countries around the world. This issue introduces the series with a discussion of one of the commonest of neurological emergencies, stroke, by Drs R S Marshall and J P Mohr of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. Subsequent issues will cover neurological, neurosurgical, and neuropsychiatric emergencies ranging from status epilepticus through head injury, to acute behavioural disturbance. The series and the book will help the journal fulfil an important role in neurological postgraduate education. Future review series and books are planned for the rest of the decade.

A successful journal depends on the good will and hard work of unpaid assessors who referee, in some instances, many papers a year. Their names are listed in the December issue of each volume and I would like to seize this opportunity of thanking them again. Every reader, and particularly every author, owes the assessors a tremendous debt of gratitude. Potential contributors should pay attention to our notice to contributors, which has been revised again and is printed on the inside of the front cover.

We are offered about a thousand papers to be published each year and can only publish about a quarter. While we do our best to discover the Nobel prize-winning offerings even amongst the tattiest of manuscripts, human nature dictates that those prepared and presented according to the rules have a greater chance of acceptance.

It is the editorial committee’s ambition that every practising clinical neuroscientist, neurologist, neurosurgeon, or neuropsychiatrist will want to have the JNNP on his or her own desk. To this end, the journal is now available to some national neurological societies at a substantial discount. Other societies that wish to come to a similar arrangement should contact our Journals Marketing Department, BMA House. With the fall in the value of the pound sterling even personal subscribers should find the full individual subscription a bargain!

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