

## Chapter 5

# 1961–1965

## President: M.A.B. Brazier

The revised Statutes introduced the term “Fiscal Period” for the interval between one congress and the next, normally four years, and firmly established it as the term of all offices and the life of all committees, so we may use it from here on.

In the present Fiscal Period four more societies joined the Federation, those of Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Canada and Greece. There was some hesitation over accepting the first, because of its appropriately small size, but certainly there have been no regrets. The total was now 29.

It soon became apparent that some people were dissatisfied with certain aspects of the new Constitution but it was not until its publication (Journal, 1962, 14: 943–949) that things came to a head. The objections were concentrated on the EMG Commission and on the mode of election of its officers; it is evident from the letters that went to and fro at this time that the intention of welding all the various branches of Clinical Neurophysiology into a single Federation did not have universal appeal, or perhaps that too high a price was being paid for it. However, there being little chance that this line of attack would have any success, the arguments raised by the objectors were entirely of a legalistic nature.

To deal with these problems the President set up a Rules Committee in May 1963 with the widest possible terms of reference, consisting of A.E. Walker (Baltimore), A. Rémond (Paris), O. Magnus (Wassenaar) and M. Saunders (Winnipeg), under the chairmanship of W.A. Cobb (London).

The first point discussed was whether the EMG Commission had been legally constituted; to

oversimplify a complex situation this depended on whether the new constitution was in force at the time, since the old one gave virtually no guidance on any procedural matters. The Rules Committee decided that the new constitution could not be considered as operative until after the end of the General Assembly and hence that the Commission was set up under the old constitution and could not be considered illegal.

A second major objection was to the mode of election of the members of the EMG Commission. Anticipating the new statutes the President had arranged for the Executive Officers to be elected by the new method and set up a Nomination Committee for the purpose; unfortunately he did not use this for the election of the members of the Commission but offered a list of names — the “slate” of former days — to the Council, which approved it. The Proceedings of the General Assembly stated that he “proposed” these names, though in fact he was reporting the decision of the Council. In American usage a president cannot himself propose a motion, though this is normal in many European countries. A further point of contention was that only one of the three commissioners was a member of a society within the Federation; in his anxiety to forestall the setting up of an EMG federation Gastaut had asked the “Pavia Committee” to propose names and naturally those suggested were not necessarily members of EEG societies.

Again the Rules Committee took the view that the election took place before the new statutes were in force and that under the old it was

legitimate for the President to make the proposal. Further, there was nothing in the Statutes to prevent the election of a non-member.

The Committee finally reported to the President at some length and this report, which was a direct reply to a detailed criticism by the American delegate, was sent to the American EEG Society. In a brief formal letter of October 1963 they rejected it.

In view of this the President decided to ask all the delegates for their views on the new Constitution. The replies were almost all in favour though they raised some points for discussion and others had arisen in the extensive correspondence of the Rules and Executive Committees, so that it became clear that further modifications of the Statutes were desirable.

It was proposed to increase the size of the Executive Committee by the appointment of a Member-at-Large; the controversial membership of the Chairman of the EMG Commission was retained. The appointment of a Rules Committee at the beginning of each Fiscal Period was obligatory. Many minor points of procedure were clarified.

To remove the ambiguities of procedure which had been apparent in the previous General Assembly, it had been strongly urged that some code of practice should be adopted and, indeed, Roberts' Rules of Order had been advocated. This is a little red book which sets out American parliamentary procedure in great detail. It was not sufficiently realized that the chances of following these Rules correctly in an Assembly which met only at 4-year intervals were small indeed. Accordingly Michael Saunders, with the help of the other members of the Rules Committee, was commissioned to draw up the Federation's own Rules of Order. To provide some chance that they would be observed a Procedural Counsellor was introduced, with no other task than to guide the President in his conduct of the meeting.

By the time this work was finished (Saunders later made a simplified version for the meeting of the Council) the Rules Committee had been continuously active for 18 months. The

philosophy of the chairman, at least, possibly of the other members also, was that "rules" should be as few and simple as possible, yet the Committee found itself forced by outside pressures to produce a volume and complexity of Statutes and Bye-Laws far greater than it wished.

### 1. The EEG Journal

As mentioned in the last chapter the Editor-in-Chief and the regional editors had all expressed the intention of resigning — Magnus had already done so — and the relationship between the two remaining regional editors was increasingly strained. A meeting of the Editorial Board had resolved nothing and the new President Mary Brazier (Figs. 5.1 and 5.2) saw it as urgent that a



Fig. 5.1. From left to right:

- Lennart Widén of Karolinska Institute, Stockholm. Editor of Supplement 25, *Recent Advances in Clinical Neurophysiology*, 1967.
- M.A.B. Brazier, who worked with F. Golla in London, R.S. Schwab in Boston and H.W. Magoun in Los Angeles. Compiled Supplement 1, *Bibliography of EEG* (1950), Treasurer 1953–1957, Secretary 1957–1961, President 1961–1965, American Editor of Journal 1972 and Editor-in-Chief 1973–1984.
- Willem Storm van Leeuwen of Leyden and Utrecht. European co-editor of the Journal with Otto Magnus 1957–1961, Treasurer 1962–1969.



Fig. 5.2. Mary A.B. “Molly” Brazier, Federation Treasurer 1953–1957, Secretary 1957–1961, President 1961–1965, American Editor of Journal 1972 and Editor-in-Chief 1973–1984. Shown here with her laboratory equipment at the UCLA Brain Research Institute, and including the old instrument racks and tape drives used for EEG research in that era.

solution should be found. Accordingly a further meeting was convened in Amsterdam — to be near to Elsevier — in March 1962, at which it was decided that Cobb should take the place of Storm van Leeuwen as European Editor and Ajmone Marsan agreed to continue as American Editor. The post of Editor-in-Chief was replaced by Managing Editor, held by Cobb (because of his relative proximity to Elsevier). This arrangement, born out of storm and stress, was to give the Journal a long period of stability.

When the Journal was taken over by Elsevier a change was made from quarterly to bi-monthly publication. By 1964 the demand for space had become such that a new contract was made, to publish 1308 pages in monthly issues, forming two volumes. This of course necessitated an increase in the subscription rates, from \$13 to \$19.50, and there were fears for the effect which this might have on the circulation; in fact, it

increased to its highest level so far of 3030. A further experiment at this time was to issue extra numbers as the need arose, to be paid for retrospectively; the fear that the subscribers might object or refuse to pay was not confirmed.

It had been the intention to publish the symposia of the Rome Congress as one of the Journal Supplements. For a variety of reasons great delays occurred in the collection and processing of the material and finally it became clear that a balanced symposium volume was impossible. Accordingly the authors were given the possibility of having their papers published quickly in the Journal, Elsevier offering an extra 100 pages to help absorb this extra material. Fearing a repetition of this misfortune, an editor, Lennart Widén of Stockholm (Fig. 5.1), was appointed in good time to oversee the material generated by the Vienna Congress and steps were taken to ensure that it was punctual and complete. Every subsequent Congress has been fully reported in its own Supplement.

The Vienna Supplement, when it came out in 1967, was the 25th. Of these Elsevier had produced the last six and Masson et Cie of Paris, in the rather curious arrangement mentioned earlier, six of the remainder. Only a few of the total were Federation proceedings and most were reports of limited symposia, not necessarily with Federation backing. Some, on the other hand, were monographs by one or more authors.

## 2. The Sixth International Congress, Vienna

Following the success of the Advanced Course in Marseilles, Otto Magnus was asked to organize a similar course to precede the Congress in Vienna. This he did in conjunction with Helmuth Petsche, one of the organizers of the Congress, and they quickly settled on Salzburg as the site, most suitable because of its excellent congress hall, its hotels and its beautiful and historic background. Like the first, this Course was meticulously planned and most successful, attended by 650 members from 49 countries, of whom 130 were technicians.

It was immediately followed by the Congress, held in all the splendour of the Hofburg of Vienna, running simultaneously with the Neurological Congress and both under the presidency of Prof. Hans Hoff. The local organization of the EEG Congress was in the hands of Kurt Pateisky and Helmuth Petsche, with the expert backing of the Medical Faculty of the University of Vienna.

The Proceedings of the General Assembly, held on September 9, are reported in great detail, together with reports of numerous committees, in the *Journal* (1966, 20: 293–320), which also includes the modified Statutes and Bye-Laws, and a revised version of the Terminology.

The proposed changes in the Statutes had been agreed by the postal vote of the Council but further proposals were made, and generated considerable heat, at the Council meeting held during the Congress. One, that there should be one delegate for every hundred members of a society, was rejected by the Council and not presented to the General Assembly; this was the first of several attempts to introduce a form of proportional representation. Another, accepted by the Council but failing to find the

necessary support in the General Assembly, was a proposal to have three (rather than one) members-at-large.

W. Storm van Leeuwen (Fig. 5.1) had replaced Cobb as Treasurer in 1961, when Cobb became Managing Editor of the *Journal*. The treasurer's accounts and budget offered a very different picture from the relative poverty of former years. Apart from the capital derived from the sale of back issues the *Journal* had produced about \$10,000 over the 4 years and there were other lesser sources of income.

The Chairman of the EMG Commission, Fritz Buchthal (Fig. 5.3), reported that it was guided by the Pavia Committee. That committee had been set up at the congress in that city in 1961, which had a wide international membership. He also mentioned that a second EMG Congress had been held in Copenhagen in 1963 under the joint auspices of the Federation and the World Federation of Neurology.

It was known that the next Neurological Congress would be in America; the General Assembly agreed to leave the place and time of the EEG Congress to the American EEG Society



Fig. 5.3. From left to right:

- R. Hess of Zurich. Treasurer 1969–1973.
- Fritz Buchthal of Copenhagen, a founding Federation Vice-President and first Chairman of the EMG Commission 1961–1965 and again EMG Commission Chairman 1969–1973.
- Margaret Lennox-Buchthal, wife of Fritz, daughter of William Lennox. Author of Supplement 32: *Febrile Convulsions*.

“provided that the time should be close to that of the International Neurology Congress.”

Thus began the relative independence of our congresses which has been maintained ever since; they have in fact been held in the week before the Neurology Congress, sometimes in the same city but sometimes as far apart as San Diego and New York.

Gastaut, as Chairman of the Nomination Committee, had scrupulously followed the procedure sketched out in the new Statutes for the election of the Executive Committee, though with some misgivings. When he came to ask those nominated if they were willing to stand for election they all refused, except one for each post. Thus it was only possible to submit to the Council for confirmation a list of single names looking remarkably like the “slate” of previous occasions,

though in fact the outcome of a quite complex electoral process.

The list then submitted to the General Assembly was as follows:

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President	A. Rémond
Secretary	R. Naquet
Treasurer	W. Storm van Leeuwen
Chairman of EMG Commission	E. Lambert

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They would serve together with

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Past President	M.A.B. Brazier
Editor of the Journal	W.A. Cobb

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These Nominations were accepted by acclamation.