

Chapter 3

1953–1957

President: W. Grey Walter

Day-to-day information on this period is slight but for the first time the Proceedings of the General Assembly at the end of the period were published (Journal, 1958, 10: 367–369) so that a good summary of the 4 years' work exists, together with the reports of the various committees. The Federation organized its activities in this term under the capable leadership of W. Grey Walter (Figs. 3.1 and 3.2).

Each of these reports opens with a statement to the effect that it is an updating of the report made to the previous General Assembly; since there is no evidence that any of the reports in 1953 were circulated they cannot have had any widespread effect. The committees, of course, worked by correspondence, with occasional contacts between individual members. However, a meeting of all the officers and committee members was arranged to occupy several days before the congress to finalize the reports; this was organized by Otto Magnus to take place in Oosterbeek, which had been the centre of the battle for Arnhem, of which it is a suburb; the weather was fine and the meetings were held on the lawns surrounding the conference house in a very relaxed atmosphere, which contributed greatly to the progress of the committees. Their reports, with lists of all the members, were published (Journal, 1958, 10: 370–389) and for the first time the Federation expressed in detail its recommendations on the conduct of clinical EEG examinations, on training and on specifications for EEG apparatus. Not all of these recommendations have had

general acceptance but one which has stood the test of time is the “International 10–20 system” of electrode placement, drawn up by Jasper as the result of initiatives taken at the first congress and published now for the first time. A committee on nomenclature had evidently found its task too daunting and failed to produce a report.

During the period five new societies were admitted to membership, those of Australasia, Austria, Norway, the USSR, and Romania, and at the congress a further two, Hungary and India, bringing the total to 20 societies.

1. The EEG Journal

Herbert Jasper's report of 1954 gave great satisfaction; the circulation had passed the 2000 mark, the number of published pages was over 720, the administrative difficulties had been overcome and the Journal showed a modest profit. This last was surprising in view of an 80% increase in expenditure during the year, partly because of the increased size and circulation but mainly the beginning of the rise in costs of paper and salaries. Nevertheless, all the starting loans had been repaid and the Journal was free from debt. Even the deficit on *Supplement 1* had been almost wiped out by the successful sales of *Supplements 3* and *4*, the proceedings of the Boston Congress.

Since the beginning of 1954 Jasper had had Peter Gloor, also of the Montreal Neurological Institute, as editorial assistant, an arrangement which was evidently most successful. Less



Fig. 3.1. W. Grey Walter, second Federation President and organizer of the 1947 London First Congress.

satisfactory, it seems, was an attempt to make the European editorship more active by appointing new assistant editors. However, by the following year Jasper comments that the work of

H. Fischgold, F. Buchthal and H. Shipton was “becoming of increasing importance”.

By 1955 subscriptions had risen to over 2200 and many of the new subscribers were buying all the back issues. This necessitated the reprinting of many of them at a cost of \$6000, which put the Journal temporarily in the red again. The following year’s report, however, showed a profit of a similar sum, \$6000, and a further profit of \$2000 on the Supplements.

By the end of 1957, after 10 years of operation, the circulation was about 2500 and still increasing. Despite great pressure on space the number of pages was held to about 750, because of the heavy and rising cost of printing. Jasper speaks of “tightening of our editorial policy” to try to reduce the publication delay and keep the costs in balance



Fig. 3.2. From left to right:

- W.G. Walter of Bristol. Pupil of E.D. Adrian and the first English clinical EEGer. Named delta and theta waves. Discovered the Contingent Negative Variation. Organizer of the first International Meeting in London. Co-founder of the Federation and its second President, 1953–1957.
- Willem Storm van Leeuwen, The Netherlands, EEG Journal editor from 1957, and Treasurer 1962–1969.
- Pierre Buser of Paris. European editor 1973–1979. Treasurer 1983–1985.

with the subscriptions. The price of the Journal was still only \$10 a year.

At the Congress in 1957 Grey Walter resigned as European Editor and his place was taken jointly by Otto Magnus and W. Storm van Leeuwen in The Netherlands. John Knott retired from editing Technical Notes and was replaced by H.W. Shipton and Fritz Buchthal. Clinical and Laboratory Notes were edited in America by R.S. Schwab and in Europe by H. Fischgold.

In Brussels it was recommended that all papers should be in English if possible but that any European language could be accepted. Fortunately there was little response to this open invitation and French continued to be the only language used, apart from the majority of papers in English. A further decision was to provide summaries of all papers in German and French as well as in English. This policy seems to have been applied only to Main Articles but for them was continued for some years.

Although it had at first been a great financial worry to the editors, the "Bibliography" of Mary Brazier was now established as a most valuable tool and, at Brussels, it was decided to compile a second volume for the period 1949–1959. The obvious choice for this task was Charles Henry, who had been diligently collating and sorting references for the quarterly "Index of Current Literature" from the first issue of the Journal. He was to be assisted by Cosimo Ajmone Marsan, making his first contact with the Journal which he was later to edit with such distinction. This endeavour never reached fruition but the gap was later filled in other ways.

2. The Fourth International Congress, Brussels

This Congress was held in the week of July 22, 1957, under the presidency of Frédéric Bremer, in the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, as part of

the "First International Congress of Neurological Sciences". This brought together neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology and neuropathology as well as EEG. In this vast gathering, opened in the presence of King Baudouin (the only time we had such patronage), well organized though it was, individuals felt lost and the intimacy of the first congress, already suffering progressive erosion in Paris and Boston, had gone forever. There were many, not only EEGers, who said never again.

Abstracts of the free communications were pre-circulated in the *Excerpta Medica* Congress series (1957) and the proceedings were published as *First International Congress of the Neurological Sciences*, Vol. 111 by Pergamon Press, edited by L. van Bogaert and J. Radermecker (1959, 707pp).

At the General Assembly (of the EEG Congress; Neurological Sciences held one as well) on July 24 the reports of the officers and of the committees were presented. The Treasurer had got her affairs in good order and provided a surplus for the 4 years of \$887.

Once again a slate of officers, which had been discussed at "the preliminary Assembly", whatever that may have been, was presented. It was accepted "unanimously (with one exception)"; it is not clear whether the exception was among the electors or the elected. The new President was Henri Gastaut, the Secretary M.A.B. Brazier, and the Treasurer W.A. Cobb. Fourteen Vice-Presidents were elected, all of them different from the list of 1953 with the single exception of R.S. Schwab.

Despite the misgivings over the size of this congress it was decided to hold the next in the same place and at the same time as that of Neurology. This later turned out to be Rome in September 1961 and the neuropathologists also decided to meet then and there, so that the widespread desire for a more restricted meeting was hardly satisfied.