



THE NEUROSURGEON



THE ROUND ROBIN LETTER
OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

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The
AMERICAN ACADEMY
of
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

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THE NEUROSURGEON

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The COLORADO EDITION of the NEUROSURGEON celebrates the sixteenth annual meeting of the ACADEMY at the beautiful Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. For some worthwhile comments on this area your correspondent would like to call your attention to an interesting article, "Colorado by Car and Campfire" appearing in the National Geographic Magazine of August 1954. As a state for outdoor sports of all kinds it is probably without an equal.

Your editor has some gay recollections of our 1947 meeting when the house detective had to ask us to break up the gathering in our room so some of the sensitive inhabitants could get some sleep. It didn't seem we were singing or talking too loudly but obviously there was quite a difference of opinion about that.

Further comments referable to the historical side of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery as described in the brochure of the Tenth Annual Meeting at Montreal are reprinted below.

"The ninth annual meeting was opened by President Keith on October 9th, 1947, at the Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Thirty-nine members and twenty-two guests attended the sessions and made this a truly memorable meeting. Doctor Olan Hyndman of Denver was responsible for arrangements.

"The Presidential Address by Doctor Keith was a delightful biographical sketch of Sir Victor Horsley. An excellent scientific program was offered. At the Annual Dinner, the Guest Speaker, Doctor Jason Mister, in a talk entitled, 'Reminiscences,' traced his contact through the year with our professional forebears, who made Neurosurgery a true surgical specialty.

"The Executive Sessions again were time consuming, due to the increasing size of the Academy and the increasing number of men

in the field desirable as members. Finally Doctors Theodore Rasmussen of Chicago, James Galbraith of Birmingham and Benjamin Whitcomb of Hartford, were elected to membership. Doctor Howard Brown was elected President, Arthur Elvidge, Vice-President and Wallace Hamby, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee was instructed to work out a plan by which candidates for membership could be screened before meetings and a predetermined number elected simply at the meeting by preferential ballot, without the use of the 'black ball.' The time and place of the next meeting was left with the Executive Committee.

"In December, by mail ballot, the members amended the constitution to allow a predetermined number of new members to be elected by preferential ballot. The annual dues were raised from \$5.00 to \$15.00. An Associate Organization was formed of the wives of members, the chairman to be appointed annually by the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Associate Group is to attend to details of registration and official entertainment."

Those of us who had the pleasure of attending the meeting of the Academy at Portland, Oregon will recall with great pleasure the "Authentic History of the Development of Nervous Surgery" as presented in the Presidential Address by John Raaf.



YOURS TRULY ,

L. and J. Rafinski

"An important phase of medicine is the ability to appraise the literature correctly" - Hippocrates

Theodore Rasmussen - July 19, 1954

We have just mastered the transportation of family, furniture and car to Montreal and are settled for the summer in a rented house. All our spare time at the present is occupied house-hunting and in learning my way around the expanded facilities of the M. N. I.

I hope that by the time October rolls around we will have the housing situation and the baby-sitter situation sufficiently in hand so that we can make the trip to Colorado. The preliminary program looks very interesting.

Editorial Comment:

All of us join Ted in hoping he will soon be happily located and all set for the coming winter in Montreal. He has an enviable position neurosurgically speaking and we are all certain that he will fill the roll very competently.

* * *

"Typical of man's genius is the way he develops a bomb designed to drive us into the cellar about the time he starts building homes without any cellars. "



A short pause for station identification.

John D. French - July 21, 1954

The memory of the last meeting in Santa Barbara is still so vivid in my mind that it is difficult to realize the Colorado gathering is upon us. I know you will be surprised to receive a relative prompt reply to your notice concerning the Colorado Edition of the Neurosurgeon, from one of the tardier correspondents.

Summer-time, in our laboratory, seems to be anything but a holiday. We have about twenty-five medical students from various universities spending their vacation period assisting in different projects. We have been pleasantly and instructively stimulated by numerous participating investigators and visitors from many clinics. Doctor Herbert Jasper is spending a month here, working on problems of mutual interest to his group and ours, and discussing with us, firsthand, the wealth of material with which his laboratory has been involved. Needless to say, such firsthand contact, and exchanges of information cannot help but be productive for us.

Doctor Roman Arana, Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Montevideo, is another visitor who adds much to our group. Roman has been here since the meeting of the Harvey Cushing Society and, we hope, will stay another month or two. He has been working with us on problems concerning connections of the temporal lobe cortex with subcortical structures, and on the effects of cortical stimulation on the behavior of normal animals exposed to stimulation through chronically implanted electrodes. No doubt, many of the members know Doctor Arana, and have been apprised of the meeting of the VI Latin American Congress of Neurosurgery, which will be held in Montevideo, from March 21 to 24, 1955. He is Secretary General of this meeting, and is anxious to have as many American neurosurgeons as possible attend. He has arranged an outstanding meeting, consisting of Symposia participated in by men of distinction from all over the world, and intends to select titles from those who wish to attend and present material at open sessions.

The prospect of such a meeting and of the chance to visit South America, should stimulate the interest of many to take advantage of this opportunity to make the trip. I know he would be delighted to correspond with any of the members who have such an interest.

"Fishing is a form of therapy which helps cure a man of wasting time in any other way."

* * *

Francis Murphey - July 27, 1954

I returned today from a rather extended vacation in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana to find your notice of the September edition of the NEUROSURGEON.

For the first time in twenty years I was able to forget neurosurgery completely for a month and it was wonderful. The weather was perfect and we escaped the broiling that Henry Schwartz must have taken in St. Louis at 115° or was it 120°.

On our way West, we stopped at Colorado Springs for two days. They have had very little snow in the mountains for the past two years and as a result, the water supply is critical -- the beautiful Broadmoor golf course is burned to a crisp and at last report, they were hauling water to save the greens. In Colorado Springs one was allowed only two inches of water in one's bathtub, no automobiles could be washed and since there has been no rain in that country in the month since I went through, I would not be surprised if by the time we reach there we would not be able to bathe at all and that drinking water would be at a premium. The latter, of course, would not affect most members of the Academy.

Neurosurgically speaking, the past spring has been one of the most interesting and hectic that we have experienced in Memphis. We have had four cases of central discs with posterior and lateral cord signs who had normal dynamics with the neck in the neutral position or flexed and completely blocked with the neck in extension, suggesting that the superior edge of the lamina was compressing the cord against the nodule of disc. During this same period, we had three patients with tumors around the sella in whom the visual field changes were produced by nicking of the optic chiasm, nerve or tract by one or both anterior cerebral arteries. This artery, like the lamina, is tougher and sharper than the tumor and was actually producing the field defect. As you know, there has been some reason to believe that some of the so-called pseudo-tumors were produced by electrolyte imbalance. We had a most interesting patient with pseudo-tumor with extreme increased intracranial pressure and

decerebrate rigidity who turned out to have a serum sodium of 100 (checked and double checked) and recovered on proper hormone therapy. We still believe that common carotid ligation is the best treatment for aneurysms and now have a large enough series of cases to eliminate the possibility of luck. We also believe that in most instances of multiple aneurysms, one can tell arteriographically which is the aneurysm that has bled, but to prove this point would require the combined effort of a good many neurosurgical centers.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Colorado Springs -- don't forget your water bags.

Editorial Comment:

We hope there has been a recent rain or snow in the Colorado mountains so that we won't have to lug our water bags on to Colorado Springs. Perhaps most of us won't be drinking much water any way and we probably can take a bath in the pool back of the hotel

* * *

"Inflation: A method of cutting a dollar bill in half without damaging the paper."

* * *

Edwin B. Boldrey - July 28, 1954

Thanks for your reminder concerning the forthcoming Round Robin which I will look for before the Colorado meeting. I am sure that all of us are pleased with Bill Sweet's having gotten out the preliminary program so promptly this year. It seems to me that we are in line to have another fine scientific session to go along with the other aspects of the conclave. Several members of the Academy were at the meeting here in San Francisco. Unfortunately all of them left the afternoon of the last session and I did not get a chance to have as relaxed and relaxing session as I would have liked. Helen and I hope to have better luck next time. Earl Walker, as chairman of the section on "Nervous and Mental Disease" gave an excellent talk. All of you should look for it when it is finally published in, I assume, the American Medical Association Journal. The papers of the other Academicians were also up to their usual good level.

We had occasion recently to see an interesting case of a very early tumor on our service here. As you know, we have been interested in the early diagnosis of tumors of the cerebello-pontine angle, and it was this work which led to the finding of some of the arachnoidal cysts that were discussed a couple of years ago in New York. We have found two early tumors in the course of this work; the second of these was discovered only a few days ago. The patient had a progressive deafness and some facial weakness and of all things an absent corneal reflex. A tumor, about three millimeters in diameter, was found in the internal auditory canal, separating the 7th and 8th and unfortunately invading the 7th nerve. This is the smallest tumor of the 8th nerve that we have ever seen at operation, and is I think the smallest I have even seen at autopsy. It was fun to catch one that wasn't pressing on the brain stem, the cerebellum and two-thirds of the cranial nerves on the same side.

I am looking forward with keen anticipation to the meeting in October.

* * *

A student government officer at the University of San Francisco wrote to the University of California concerning the use of the honor system during exams and received this reply: "The University of California abandoned the honor system several years ago when it became evident that the professors had the honor and the students had the system."

* * *

E. Harry Botterell - July 29, 1954

I just got back from my look-around and holiday in Europe and Britain and hasten to answer, in a preliminary way, your letter of July 7th about the Academy meeting. Sad to relate, it collides with the Royal College of Surgeons meeting in Winnipeg, and Dr. William Lougheed and I are taking part in that programme. Will you please present my excuses and, indeed, my regrets.

I had planned to bring Charlie Drake from London as my guest in the hope that one day he might be put up for membership in the Academy. He also is committed to attend the Royal College meeting in Winnipeg. I would like to put him down for invitation as my guest to the 1955 meeting.

Editorial Comment:

Your correspondent joins the rest of the members in regretting Harry's absence from this coming meeting but realizes and appreciates, as all of us do, his requirement of attending the meeting in Winnipeg. We anticipate seeing him at next year's meeting.

* * *

Rupert B. Raney - July 30, 1954

The summer is warmer and, as you probably well know, the temperature is rising. I hope it will eventually find the upper level and start down again.

We have been exceptionally busy this summer, and I am looking forward to either a little lull or the coming of the American Academy meeting, at which time I will be able to get out of town for a few days.

The latter part of the month finds me with the obligation of going to Reno, Nevada, to participate in the program of the annual meeting of the Reno Surgical Society. Immediately following the meeting we are going to join John Raaf at Gold Beach and try our luck at fishing for a few days, provided something does not come up in the meantime to interfere with our plans.

The program committee seems to be doing an exceptionally good job in assembling what appears to be some very interesting material for the meeting in Colorado Springs.



Dark glasses for
the New Mexico sunlight

Editorial Comment:

Rupert is certainly correct about the program committee that got together what would seem to be an excellent group of papers and managed to get the abstracts in sufficiently early for their inclusion in the program prior to the time of the meeting. All of us will look forward to Rupert's Presidential Address.

Some of the photographs which are appearing in this edition have been furnished by him and your editor is most appreciative of his generous contributions in this respect.

* * *

"Any smart person can catch on but it takes a smarter one to know when to let go."

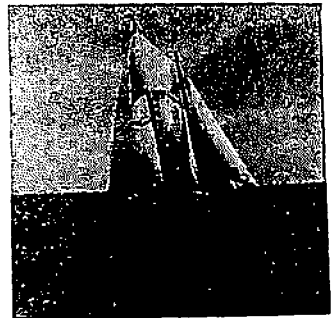
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Benjamin B. Whitcomb - July 31, 1954

The Program Committee appears to have come up with an unusually provocative program for the Colorado meeting this fall, and I hope my poor old cracking up physique will not deny me the privilege of attending as it did your wonderful meeting at Santa Barbara.

In a clinical note, I would like to mention a new cause for Horner's syndrome in a patient who also presented severe pain in the arm and shoulder and who demonstrated classical signs of a ruptured lateral disc between T1 and T2 which was confirmed by myelography and removed easily from the lateral approach with the usual prompt relief seen in a cervical disc.

I am enclosing a picture taken of Maltby and Whitcomb at the Monhegan Race one year ago. All that can be seen of us is the boat which is really a good picture in color but I don't know how it will print up. I doubt if we can get together again this year for the annual excursion, but we are going to try.



Editorial Comment:

This looks like the way to escape the worries of a troubled neurosurgeon.

* * *

"A consultant is an executive who can't find another job."

Stuart N. Rowe - August 2, 1954

Mid-summer seems to be a busy time for the neurosurgeons in Pittsburgh, and it is hard to believe that our summer vacation came and went over one month ago. We tried a family trip to Bermuda, but traveled by ship this year rather than by boat. Both trips were very calm with the exception of one morning when the wind kicked up fairly briskly (as indicated in the accompanying snapshot), and all hands in our party missed breakfast. We found Bermuda a very beautiful spot, with the beaches of Florida, the sunshine of Santa Barbara, and one of the three golf courses reminding me very much of Pebble Beach.



Eratum Elva Rowe

Elva Rose surveys
the wild Atlantic.

I am looking forward to the Colorado Springs meeting and feel that the Program Committee has certainly been putting forth considerable effort at an earlier date than usual.

* * *

"People are supposed to be smarter but you will never find a horse at a race track who doesn't have to be there. "

* * *

Alfred Uihlein - August 3, 1954

On June 8 I returned from a seven week trip to Europe, four weeks of which were spent in Sweden and Denmark observing neurosurgical procedures. The trip was extremely worthwhile, and without a doubt the most impressive part of my visit was the teamwork that has been set up over there between radiologist and neurosurgeon. Every type of x-ray picture is taken to obtain as much knowledge as possible from the x-ray film as to the location and size of the intracerebral lesion. Cerebral angiography is also worked out in the minutest detail. At the moment in Stockholm they are using a serial x-ray film changer that should give us excellent simultaneous anteroposterior and lateral

projections of cerebral angiography. The films can be taken at varying speeds and at varying exposure times. Air myelography as they have worked it out has supplanted contrast myelography. It is interesting that air myelography is used primarily to identify lesions of the spinal cord from C-1 to L-1. Below L-1 they use a contrast material that requires an anesthetic that they feel is superior to pantopaque or lipiodal. They claim that they have no arachnoiditis from the material.

Hypophysectomy is being recommended and carried out primarily in patients under 60 years of age who have no obvious liver or brain metastases. Apparently patients with carcinoma of the breast or prostate have had the best therapeutic results. The procedure is also being recommended in severe diabetes in young patients and also in malignant hypertension. As far as the surgery of intracerebral aneurysms is concerned, they operate only on the "good" ones, and not the "bad" ones. They admit to a mortality rate of 70 to 80 per cent in the unconscious patient. With the latter they are now trying hypothermia in the early management in the hope that by this technique more of the critically ill may be pulled through the critical period so that cerebral angiography and subsequent craniotomy can be considered.

Choroidal artery ligation for Parkinsonism has had equivocal results in these countries. Norlen, who is now the chief of neurosurgery at Gotteberg, would appear to have one of the up and coming new centers, second only to Olivecrona's. He is a marvelous surgeon with excellent integrity. Leksell in Lund, Sweden, is expending all of his efforts toward stereotaxis and has an apparatus made completely of lucite. Several of his Parkinson cases that were treated by stereotaxis coagulating the ansa lenticularis made an excellent postoperative recovery. The longest postoperative period was only eight months so the ultimate results cannot as yet be determined. It certainly is a painless procedure. While in Sweden I spent some time with Bill Scoville's new associate, Frank Riley, who is spending a year in the Scandinavian countries and, believe it or not, is receiving a stipend from the governments over there. Bill apparently has learned all the angles. I am certain that Frank Riley's year will be very worthwhile.

Doctor Taarnhoj is leaving Sweden to come to America and will reside in Cleveland as a member of the staff of the Cleveland Clinic. This should prove extremely interesting.

Neurosurgery on the continent as a whole had very little new to offer. The French are trying hard but they are still Frenchmen. It was interesting to see how many patients from France, Spain, and Italy went to Sweden and Denmark for their neurosurgery.

Ione and I are looking forward to coming to our next meeting at Colorado Springs and the tentative program appears to be an extremely interesting and stimulating one. I sincerely hope that Rupe Raney will not hold off his scintillating address to the membership-at-large until Saturday night because I am afraid that some of us may have to leave just before he gets his best joke told. Is there any chance of having his address on Friday night? We hope that the Academy members have all had a most enjoyable summer and as far as the Uihlein clan is concerned, everyone is in good "fettle", but growing up much too fast.

Editorial Comment:

Alfred has given us a very interesting and entertaining account of his experiences in Europe during his recent trip there. It seems to me the serial x-ray film changer which will give excellent simultaneous anteroposterior and lateral projections of cerebral angiography would represent an excellent addition to the technique. As one reads of the various things done in some of these large centers, at least one who is an active suburban neurosurgeon, he can't help thinking how much more remains to be organized in smaller communities even though the work here is much more sporting than it is for some of the rest of those of the larger areas.

* * *

"Nothing stimulates an interest in foreign affairs more than having a son of military age."

* * *

James Greenwood, Jr. - August 4, 1954

We have very little to report from Houston except the summer is hot as usual. Houston, of course, has the most wonderful climate in the world (due to the fact that most of the buildings are air-conditioned).

We have become interested in hemispherectomy for infantile hemiplegia and have done several cases which will be reported at the meeting in October. This month we were quite impressed by the ease with which it was possible to remove an AV angioma under arfenad, by attacking the arteries entering the lesion before disturbing any of the cortical veins.

I am enclosing a picture of the Greenwood children.



What a wonderful family.

* * *

A student at a California college had been pestering his father for a '54 model auto. On a visit to the campus the father pointed out that most the cars in the parking lot were of ancient vintage. "But dad," protested the boy, "those cars belong to the faculty."

One music publisher to another: "I have never heard such corny lyrics, such simpering sentimentality, such repetitious uninspired melody -- man, we've got a hit on our hands!"

Edward W. Davis - August 6, 1954

Congratulations to the program committee. The tentative program certainly looks most interesting and provocative of discussion. I also think that the schedule for papers in the morning with part of the afternoon off is much more satisfactory, and I am happy to see a continuation of this idea.

Unfortunately, I have nothing of scientific interest for the "Neurosurgeon". We have had a run of sphenoid wing meningiomas in the past two months. During that time we have seen and operated three. The last one weighed in the vicinity of 200 grams and was found in a 26 year old girl. We probably won't have the good fortune to see another meningioma for months, but they seem to go in cycles at least for us.

Barbara and I are certainly looking forward to the meeting at Colorado Springs. We both enjoy this as a meeting place although it will be very difficult to surpass the excellent time we had in Santa Barbara last year.



President and Past President of the Women's Auxiliary
look over the New Mexico landscape.

Shoe salesman to woman: "Shall I show you the right size first or would you rather work up to it little by little?"

* * *

Donald D. Matson - August 7, 1954

"I have never had a family portrait to send to the Round Robin rotogravure section in response to your previous requests. Enclosed is a recent snapshot I made of our group which explains why Dotty hasn't been able to make all the meetings in the past 6 years. None of this collection has as yet had subdural taps and there has been only one cerebral concussion that we know about!

We had a wonderful week cruising in the Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard, Newport waters in July with another couple and are now looking forward to Colorado with great anticipation.

The practice of surgery has had a good deal of competition this summer from the necessity of sidewalk superintending construction of our new Children's Hospital which is at long last well under way. Better plan to come to visit us in 1956.



Editorial Comment:

Don is certainly to be congratulated on the work he did for the program of the Harvey Cushing Society at the meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Your correspondent is very pleased to have obtained finally this photograph of the charming younger generation in his household.

"The American boy who doesn't know how to handle a football often has to find some other means of working his way through college."

* * *

Joseph P. Evans - August 8, 1954

In addition to your letter soliciting word for the Colorado edition of THE NEUROSURGEON, I have had on my desk today the preliminary program for that meeting. If the Broadmoor itself did not offer sufficient inducement for being on hand, the program certainly should, and I think the committee is to be congratulated on a very promising series of papers.

Medical activities have been of the usual round, and I think that I have nothing special to report in that regard. However, I do have one bit of news, and that is that I shall be leaving Cincinnati, and going up on October 1 to the post left vacant by Ted Rasmussen at the University of Chicago. The possibility for concentration of cases in one hospital in contrast to the spread out service here in Cincinnati, plus the fact that the scientific budget is considerably larger than that available to us here, were inducements which overcame even our deep-rooted love of Cincinnati, where people have been very good to us indeed. The prospect of succeeding to a post established by Percival Bailey and since graced by Paul Bucy, Earl Walker and Ted, is a challenging one, and I look forward to the new post with real anticipation.

I have some qualms about leaving Chicago so soon after assuming the new responsibilities, but I'm certainly counting, nevertheless, on making the Colorado meeting.

Bob McLaurin, who came to us from Boston a year ago, is going to be taking over in Cincinnati as the acting director of the division and I'm sure that he will do an excellent job.

Editorial Comment:

All of us wish Joe every success in the assumption of his new post at the University of Chicago. He certainly will ably fill the vacancy left by Ted Rasmussen. We do hope he will definitely join us at the Broadmoor this month.

* * *

"Discretion is judgment without any snap to it."

William F. Meacham - August 10, 1954

It seems as though this summer has been spent doing every thing except significant and interesting neurological surgery. We have had a good many visitors in Nashville and I have done a good bit of traveling about myself. Betty and Eben Alexander and Don Matson were here for a visit and we enjoyed having them immensely. Recently I attended another meeting at Mackinac Island, Michigan, and I traveled a good part of the way with Harvey Chenault. How the Neurosurgical clan does seem to gad about! We are leaving next week for our annual trek to Sea Island, Georgia, for a short vacation and a chance to get acquainted with the kids again. Hope I can find some neurosurgical colleagues taking the same sort of vacation there.

Due to the arrival of another member of the Meacham clan in the very near future, Alice will not be able to come to the Colorado Springs meeting, but she assures me that this will be the last one she will miss. As a matter of fact, if the stork should arrive a little earlier than anticipated I will have to cancel my plans to attend as well.

Looking forward to the Colorado meeting with great anticipation.

Editorial Comment:

All of us hope that things go well with the new arrival in the Meacham clan and we hope things will work out so that Bill will be able to join us.

As your reporter reads over the enjoyable letters sent in to The Neurosurgeon he can't help thinking that there are few people who work as hard as neurosurgeons, or who play as hard and travel as much. One of the requirements for neurosurgery must be a disposition for industry, patience, and humor.

* * *

"When a man doesn't mind his own business it is because he has no business or no mind."

"Many a man thinks he is being cultivated when he is only being trimmed."

"Whatever you have you must either use or lose."
- Henry Ford

Thomas A. Weaver - August 15, 1954

I guess this should just about get in under the wire for the Colorado Edition. I am enclosing a picture taken this Spring of our six bundles of dynamite. It is a job getting them to stand still long enough to snap the shutter.



Bill Sweet, Ed Boldrey, and Hannibal Hamlin are to be congratulated on their tentative program. It appears to be another superior job.

We have been having our usual hot, humid summer with temperatures in the nineties most of the time. I'm off in a couple of days for three weeks in Michigan. My "do-it-yourself" program for the vacation includes the construction of a boat house.

We had two dorsal neurofibromas in rapid succession recently. Both patients had long standing symptoms and ended up paraplegic, which sounds as though our education program should be stepped up a bit. Both patients, fortunately, are making excellent neurological improvement.

We in the Miami Valley are sorry to lose Joe Evans to Chicago, but I guess our loss is their gain.

* * *

"The only thing that goes as far today as it did ten years ago is the dime that rolls under the bed."

* * *

John M. Meredith - August 16, 1954

We have had some interesting experiences recently in carrying out Arnold Meirowsky's idea of sacral neurotomy in certain cases of spastic bladder. In one individual it followed a severe myelitis of the cord and in the second it was in a young girl who had a spastic bladder with considerable residual urine, following removal of a teratoma of the lower end of the cord and cauda equina which contained all three germinal layers.

So far the results have been most encouraging and it certainly is a good procedure when one does not want to cut the anterior roots in an individual who is not paraplegic, which I think was the main idea that Arnold had in mind for these spastic bladders that one sees occasionally in ambulatory patients.

We have continued to have an occasional unusual type of cord tumor, unusual in that when first seen the patient seems to have anything but a surgical lesion of the spine, suggesting on one occasion a psychiatric weakness of an arm and in another an orthopedic condition such as a low back strain, but which were proved on spinal puncture, protein examination and myelography to have cord tumors. One certainly feels after such experience that anybody with pain in the back should have very careful study with perhaps spinal puncture, Queckenstedt test and a protein determination as it may be embarrassing occasionally to find later the patient has a cord tumor with symptoms one would think were almost certainly not due to a neoplasm.

I am sure we are all absorbing Wally Hamby's profound volume on aneurysms. It is a monumental piece of work indeed and Wally is certainly to be congratulated on getting it together and in publishing it so beautifully. How he found the time in his very busy life is another matter I shall have to ask him about when next I see him.

The excellent volume by Ingraham and our own Don Matson is a mine of information and reflects the excellent work that is going forward as we all know at the Children's Hospital in Boston. The illustrations are of such clarity that our residents are delighted to consult that volume almost daily in our pediatric neurosurgical work here.

We had here recently an ependymoma encircling the third ventricle, which required a bilateral Torkildsen procedure. I would like to suggest that when doing a bilateral Torkildsen procedure that the catheters always be placed in the posterior fossa and not in the upper cervical cord region as is done occasionally in the unilateral procedure. I found that things were a little bit crowded when one tries to insert both catheters into the upper cervical region and would prefer in future cases to open up the posterior fossa fairly widely and insert them in the region of the cerebellar tonsils.

I think the unilateral procedure can be done perfectly well by taking off only the atlas and axis, leaving the occipital bone intact.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the meeting in Colorado in October, particularly since we missed the meeting last year because of another trip which conflicted somewhat.

* * *

Husband looking up from newspaper, to wife: "What's happened between you and the retail merchants, dear? I see they say business is off. "

* * *

Dean H. Echols - August 23, 1954

Sorry to say that Fran and I will miss the meeting at the Broadmoor. We have been spending so much money on one thing and another that we decided to deny ourselves the event of the year that means most to us.

The new totally air conditioned Ochsner Foundation Hospital opened on June 12th and, needless to say, is a delightful place to work. The adjacent building, a combination guest house and convalescent hospital of 80 rooms, will be completed in December. This is also an air conditioned brick structure which contains a public cafeteria, barber shop, beauty parlor, lobbies, etc. The Graduate Nurses home is already in operation. Our next problem is to find ways of financing a new Ochsner Clinic on the hospital grounds.

Recently a former Ochsner Fellow, Raeburn C. Llewellyn, joined the Clinic's neurosurgery department - giving us a group of three. The net result is that I'm getting to fish about twice a week.

Fran is well and busy doing over our old house. In September the two older children will both be away at boarding school in Virginia and we will be alone with the 12 year old.

Editorial Comment:

All of us will much regret not seeing Fran and Dean

at the meeting in Colorado Springs. We hope we will have the pleasure of being with them the year following.

* * *

"Gift shop: A place where you can see all the things you hope your friends won't send you for Christmas."

* * *

Wallace B. Hamby - August 25, 1954

Having missed your lovely party last fall, Hellyn and I are looking forward with great pleasure to the Broadmoor meeting. We have had a quiet summer, with our daughter in summer school and Barney off to camp. We have had a chance to play some golf; Hellyn improves - I keep my bad habits.

Work on the Service has opened no new trails this year. We continue to be grateful for the Taarnhøj operation for tic. All else is rather routine.

* * *

"When the other guy is laid off it's a recession. When it happens to you, it's a depression."

* * *

Rupert B. Raney - August 30, 1954

We followed in your footsteps of not too long past by joining the Rogue River Neurosurgical Society. John and Lorene Raaf certainly run a beautiful hotel, and the management and service are excellent. Not being a fisherman, I certainly received splendid indoctrination from John, as well as Ernest Mack of Reno, Nevada.

Before going to the Rogue River I had the honor of being invited as one of the guest speakers to the meeting of the Reno Surgical Society, and let me suggest that any Academicians so honored by an invitation as guest speaker let nothing interfere with acceptance; the lucky person not only will have the opportunity of knowing Doctor and Mrs. Ernest Mack better, but will also have a time that will be long remembered.

The time of the meeting is now drawing close and I trust that we will have no absentees. The program committee has certainly done a wonderful job in arranging the material to be presented.

Editorial Comment:

Those who have not had the joy of going up and down the wonderful Rogue River and seeing the steelhead jump about have really missed something. The Rogue River Neurosurgical Society probably is one of the most delightful as well as exclusive organizations as such at the present time

Interestingly the members of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery have been largely responsible for getting underway the coming Western Neurosurgical Society which should be a good one and which forms a great need out in this part of the world.

* * *

"This is the only country in the world where a man can ride in his own car to the court house to collect his unemployment compensation check."

* * *

Theodore Rasmussen - August 30, 1954

I am delighted to hear that in your new roster of members you are going to include the first names of the wife. This will be a great help to those of us who have primarily visual type memory. My wife's first name is Catherine.

We are gradually getting settled into the new post up here, and we were fortunate in finding a house to buy that was partly completed. We were thus able to have a few minor changes made to suit our tastes. The builder is coming down the home stretch now and we expect to be moving into the new place in two or three weeks.

I doubt that the confusion of the move will be sufficiently settled in time for me to get to the meeting in Colorado Springs. This will be the first meeting of the Academy that I have missed. The preliminary programme looks excellent. I will be interested to hear how the new time schedule works out. It sounds very good to me.

I trust you are having a happy summer in your gorgeous garden spot.

Editorial Comment:

We are sorry that Catherine and Ted will not be able to get away from Montreal to attend the meeting but it is quite understandable why. We anticipate seeing them at the meeting the following year.

Your reporter can assure you that he and his family have spent a most enjoyable summer at Shangri-La in Santa Barbara.

* * *

"We are not going to consider any of these models the real dream car of tomorrow until one of them includes a disposal unit built into the ledge behind the back seat to chew up all the comic books, graham cracker boxes, youngsters mittens, and road maps."

* * *

A. Earl Walker - August 30, 1954

I hope this note may reach you in time to go on the back cover of the Round Robin for I should like to wish you all the very best time at the coming meeting at Colorado Springs. Both literally and figuratively I am going underground for a few months and shall not be able to attend.

I toured Germany on one of the Unitarian Service Missions in July participating in symposia, conferences every day or two. It was amazing to see the amount of reconstruction that has been accomplished by the Germans in the Western Zone. Many of the cities have been almost completely rebuilt and except for an occasional empty square or ruined church you would not know the place had been a shambles only ten years ago. Those people deserve a great deal of credit. Everyone is working 12-16 hours a day to get back to a normal economy. The Professor of Physiology at one of the universities showed me the walls of his institute - on the top floor of which he lives because of the housing shortage - which he and his assistants had laid brick by brick after its destruction in 1944. Perhaps not quite as straight as that laid by a professional but quite

serviceable. The universities in the Western Zone are reorganized and doing good academic and research work under difficulties. In the Eastern Zone, the situation is quite different and there the universities are having a tough time getting well trained personnel. Even in the sectors of Berlin this difference was apparent. In the Western Zone the Free University of Berlin is bursting at the seams; in the Eastern Zone - according to the signs "Demokratische Zone" - the Humboldt University has only a half or third of its pre-war complement of students and faculty. Neurosurgery is done only in university centers and accordingly the number of neurosurgeons is limited. One should comment upon the fine clinic Tonnis has developed at Cologne. He has an exceptional organization and is producing first class clinical and investigative work.

Upon my return, my collaborators took me down under, this time the cerebral cortex, where we are chasing epileptic discharges around the subcortical structures. Compared to the pyrotechnic display in these regions during a seizure, the cortex is only a firecracker. It'll be some time before I get out of there - but it's fascinating work trying to solve the maze. I hope by the next meeting I'll be able to come up for a good airing.

Terrye joins me in wishing you the best ever.

Editorial Comment:

Earl's letter obviously is another one of those of considerable interest and likewise is quite enjoyable. We will greatly miss his presence at Colorado Springs.

* * *

"Some women are so particular about their appearance that they usually make it an hour late."

* * *

Howard A. Brown - August 30, 1954

There is very little of scientific interest to report the short time that I have been back from vacation.

We did have a youngster of two with rather rapid weakness of the lower extremities and spinal fluid containing a good deal of blood as well as very high protein and evidence of a block at the L-2 level.

When the dura was opened tumor, cauda equina and blood began to extrude forcefully, requiring a rather rapid opening of the extent of the exposure. The tumor had thoroughly wrapped itself about all of the elements of the cauda equina and did not lend itself to any adequate removal. This proved to be a medulloblastoma though we have not as yet demonstrated any sign of an intracranial lesion.

Dorothy has asked me to suggest that everyone plan to attend the cocktail parties at the coming meeting at the Broadmoor rather than remain in small groups in individual rooms at that particular time. She is also hopeful that everyone will note that the banquet is to take place on the last night of the meeting and plan to stay until the following day so that we may have a full attendance and enjoy a bang-up party.

The Raneys spent a few days with us at the Pines this summer and I decided that the worried look on the President's face must be the result of his contemplation of the Presidential Address. I am sure that this has been completely eliminated by his attendance at the Rogue River Neurosurgical Society under the direction of John and Lorene Raaf. We regret very much that we were not able to attend but are looking forward to a play-by-play account at Colorado Springs.

Unfortunately we have no baby pictures to send in but are including the best offering we can make at this time.

Barton, our second son, married Margaret August 7th and they are now en route to Boston where Bart will start his medical work at Harvard this fall.

Editorial Comment:

Dorothy and Howard must indeed be proud of their attractive son and it is hoped that he will follow in his father's distinguished footsteps but to do so will not be an easy task.

* * *

"Lady: A woman who makes it easy for a man to be a gentleman. "

"Luxury: A thing that becomes a necessity when the neighbors get it. "

"Horse-sense: Just stable thinking. "



The second son and coming doctor takes a bride.

Augustus McCravey - August 30, 1954

Our laboratory has made the interesting observation that the brain tumor cases are running a very high percentage of Rh-negative blood. In the last seventeen cases of brain tumor, fifteen had this blood type.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone and gathering the usual large group of "pearls" at Colorado Springs.

Editorial Comment:

Mac seems to have dropped an interesting little "pearl" of his own. Just how this figuring will work out remains to be seen.

* * *

"Conference: A term for swapping stories in a business man's private office."

* * *

George S. Baker - August 30, 1954

I have just returned from a three week visit in the East, and spent some time vacationing with the family on Cape Cod. We also used this opportunity to look over some of the eastern prep schools for the boys, and our daughter, Turner Lane, is entered at Rogers Hall in Lowell, Massachusetts this fall.

We are planning to attend the meeting of the Academy, and I have selected a rather interesting group of cases from a large series of skull lesions which I hope will be of interest to the group. Frank and Queenie Mayfield, as well as Enid and myself, are hoping to visit Colorado Springs a day or two in advance of the meeting, and perhaps get in some trout fishing but of course this is somewhat speculative.

During my visit in the East I took occasion to make a trip up to Hanover, New Hampshire to visit Dartmouth College where I was a student for two years, and had the occasion to visit with Henry Heyl. I drove up with Bob Fisher, who is associated with the Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover. Ernest Sachs, Jr. is also with the group in neurosurgery. Henry is now in charge of the Foundation for Medical Research and seems

to be quite happy and quite busy in this work. He has managed to get about in his paraplegic condition remarkably well and has a motorized, three wheel conveyance to use and has improvised elevators and the like in his house, thus handling his situation in a marvelous fashion. He has discussed the situation as far as attending future meetings of the Academy and feels that he will be able to attend most of them within striking distance of the East at least. I think Harry Botterell is to be commended, especially for his encouragement and his efforts to rehabilitate Henry during the time that he was particularly depressed. We all knew, of course, that Harry was particularly interested in the Canadian Rehabilitation Center close to Toronto, but I think in his efforts to help a fellow neurosurgeon he has indeed gone way beyond the call of duty, and I know Henry has particularly appreciated this guidance.

* * *

"Alimony is like paying installments on a car after a wreck."

* * *

Theodore C. Erickson - August 31, 1954

Small children certainly limit ones traveling and other extra curricular activities as Emily and I have come to realize the past couple of years. This summer has been no exception and we have not strayed far from Lake Mendota. Activity on the neurosurgical service has also conspired to keep me from doing much sailing even though I can see my boat tugged at her mooring as I sit at my desk.

Under the heading of case reports I believe it is worth mentioning that we recently had a patient with osteomyelitis of the cervical spine which no doubt developed by spread of infection through Batson's venous system following prostatectomy. The patient maintained that he developed severe pain in the neck immediately following the prostatectomy. This was succeeded by the gradual onset of quadriplegia which was complete when he entered the neurosurgical service. X-ray films are equivocal but there was a block at C₆ on myelography. At laminectomy an extradural granuloma was disclosed which on bacteriological study showed a pure culture of *B. pyocyaneus*. Although the original x-ray films of the cervical spine had not

been revealing, subsequent films disclosed an osteomyelitis, changes of which progressed for some time after the patient began to improve. In addition to decompression and Crutchfield traction large doses of polymyxin B were administered with recovery of the spinal cord functions and apparent complete healing of the bone lesion. There is a recent report of similar cases in one of the radiological journals but this is the first one I have seen.

Perhaps because I have done relatively few temporal lobectomies for psychomotor epilepsy I have been made unduly optimistic by some of our recent results. Two out of three I just saw in follow-up after six months are seizure free and have a normal EEG (previously consistently abnormal). A third who had a subdural hematoma over the temporal lobe has continued to have seizures, but not psychomotor in type.

It is to our continuing regret that we were not able to attend the Santa Barbara meeting. For this reason we especially look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs in October.

Editorial Comment:

Ted has given us certainly an interesting and unusual case that is worth remembering.

We will all look forward to seeing Emily and Erick at the Colorado meeting.

* * *

"When a woman lowers her voice it's a sign she wants something; when she raises it, it's a sign she didn't get it."

* * *

George L. Maltby - August 31, 1954

I have been extremely negligent in getting my Round Robin letter off because I am afraid that I have very little to contribute.

The summers in Maine are pretty well limited to working a little harder than usual because of all the vacation traffic and summer camp trauma and so on, plus trying to get a little vacation in for oneself to enjoy the summer here. One of the

many good things about summers in Maine is that living on Route #1 on the coast we see all our old friends going through or visiting somebody in Maine. I have had a chance to see Hannibal Hamlin and others. I talked to Everett Grantham who was visiting in Ogunquit but I couldn't get him up here to see us.

As far as the neurosurgery is concerned it has been busy but quite routine. One finds more and more in this type of practice that it is difficult to concentrate on something fundamental and try to get even a clinical paper together. I am sure you realize this problem as well.

I am looking forward to the meeting in Colorado Springs. I hope Sim can make it but I rather doubt it this time.

* * *

From an ad for the Spring Cotton Mills in Newsweek: "Springmail sheets are known as America's favorite playground."

* * *

John Raaf - August 31, 1954

I was interested in Everett Grantham's comment in the last Round Robin letter to the effect that he had seen very few good results from lobotomy in phantom limb pain problems. We, too, have been a bit discouraged with lobotomy (both standard and Grantham technic) as a method of treating intractable pain.

The Rogue River Neurosurgical Society had its annual meeting last week. Rupe Raney and Ernie Mack from Reno were the principal speakers. Both delivered exceptionally fine papers on various aspects of piscatorial neurology. I am enclosing an "abstract" of their contribution.

Yesterday I received your letter containing the constitution of the embryo Western Neurosurgical Society. I could see the hand of the master organizer had been



The morning catch

active. Congratulations, Dave, upon another excellent piece of work.

In the last Round Robin Letter I asked a couple of questions about diagnosis of cervical discs by (1) pantopaque myelography (2) electromyography. Only two faithfuls, Eben Alexander and Harry Botterell, replied. However, the lack of response is probably fortunate for I find that my first question is poorly worded and subject to interpretation which I had not intended. I shall try again shortly by the postcard reply method and hope for more success.

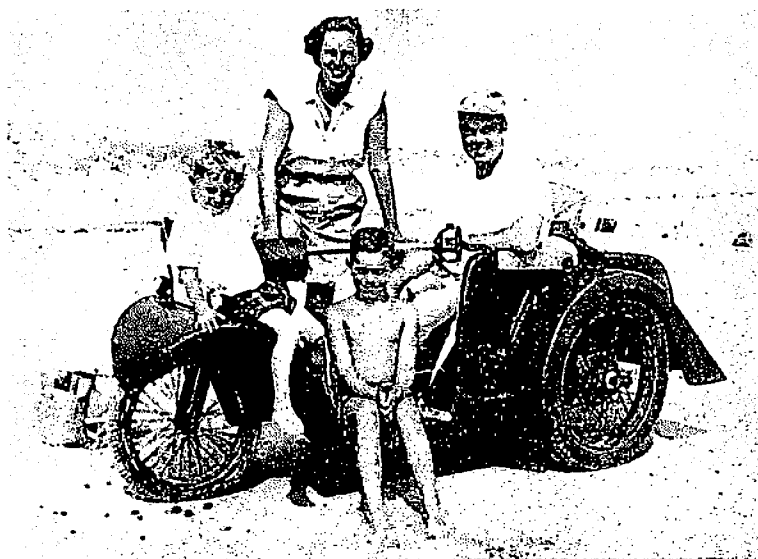
* * *

"I hope they don't raise the standard of living any higher. I can't afford it now."

* * *

Henry L. Heyl - September 1, 1954

I enclose a snapshot of the Heyl family on a recent vacation at the beach. The feature of the trip was the great success of the electric vehicle shown. I know you do practically everything on wheels in California now, but this rig which I imported from London I have used all over our farm,



across open fields and up woods roads. I have even tried working a bird dog from it; and its performance in the sand was perfect. It is called a "Solocar" and is a beautifully made job. I mention this because it might be of value to other paraplegic patients and, so far as I know, this is the only one of its kind which has as yet been imported into this country. Incidentally, it cost less to import it than it would have to have a similar vehicle shipped from California. The disadvantage of the American vehicles is that they all have relatively small wheels, would tip over easily, and would not negotiate rough terrain.

I am terribly afraid that we are going to have to pass up the Colorado meeting. We had hoped to make it. I hope you realize that nothing would keep me from coming except the distance and long sitting times involved in getting there. I think of you all often and look forward to the time when I can meet you on a more normal basis again.

Editorial Comment:

Your reporter is particularly happy in receiving the very good photograph of the Heyls and to learn how well Henry has done under most difficult and trying circumstances. It is something to bring joy to all of us.

* * *

"It's usually women who collect antiques: Men seem to prefer the younger things."

* * *

Barnes Woodhall - September 1, 1954

I am very happy to forward you my contribution to the Round Robin Letter. This is one contribution which never hurts me in any possible way, and I am always happy that this gives my enemies an opportunity to cuss me again, and my few friends to think more kindly of me. This is a good illustration of what you recognize as pre-senile paranoid state.

I spent my summer catching sharks this year and waiting up at night for my two children to come home. This combination of circumstances virtually ruined my disposition but did allow me to renew my enormous interest in the Atlantic Ocean.

In terms of research activities, I did make a distinct contribution to the technique of catching sharks. These are small ones, about four feet long, and the punch line is simply this -- that one must cut free the sharks that are over that length. The reason for this follows: One, of course, can easily shoot sharks, but this involves lead flying around a tossing boat, and is hard on one's children. The technique is briefly this: The catcher tows the shark, after he is tired, alongside the research man. He watches the formidable head go by and the fins, and, just as the tail goes by, he grabs the tail, preferably with a leather glove on the catching hand. With some practice, one can hold on to the tail and stay in the boat and turn the shark bottom up. One then plunges a knife into the shark's abdomen, pointing upwards toward the liver. We were really trying to figure out why a shark is able to make Vitamin D, when all biochemists claim that Vitamin D is only synthesized in the presence of ultra-violet light. At any rate, the knife is very important in terms of type, and I secured mine from V. L. and A. in Chicago, on the floor beneath which the Mayo Neurosurgeons buy their shotgun equipment.

I have a large group of shark fins drying on the side of my cottage, if any reader of this epistle would care to have one.

The dove season opens on September 10th, and the duck season opens on November 10th, and the rora season is not with us. I also hope to see you in Colorado Springs.

* * *

"Wives like children need to be loved when they least deserve it."

* * *

Eben Alexander - September 3, 1954

Because of pressure of work, administrative and professional, at the moment I will not make any scientific contribution to the Round Robin Letter this time but will say that the plans are shaping up for the meeting at Colorado Springs in October. The members have been extremely good about sending in names of men to be invited as guests and I believe from



Mr. Schweppes comes to town.

all indications that this is going to be one of the most enjoyable meetings we have ever had. The program that Bill Sweet and his Committee have gotten together is an excellent one.

It would appear that the Academy Award to be given for the best paper presented at the meeting may not be given this year because of the technical difficulties of having this properly arranged with a committee appointed ahead of time. However this should be well in order by next year.

* * *

Two Hollywood children of oft-divorced parents got into an argument and as it became more heated, one said, "My father can lick your father." "Are you kidding?" cried the other, "Your father is my father!"

* * *

S. R. Snodgrass - September 4, 1954

In most ways it scarcely seems possible that the year has zipped around to September already but after our usual long summer - not yet nearly over, of course - it is none too soon. Our new hospital which is completely air conditioned has made the summer the most comfortable I have spent here as we rarely leave the building to go any where other than home.

We had our vacation early this summer and another one would be welcome. We made a long automobile trip with our two oldest sons in June. The oldest will be ready for college in 1955 and we were eager for him to see some of the more distant schools and portions of the country before deciding where to apply for next year. We were gone for almost four weeks and drove almost 6000 miles - it was harder than working! As we never had enough time to spend as long as we wished anywhere, the whole thing was also somewhat frustrating. Up to the present time he has not intimated where he will apply. We are taking him back to prep school in Austin Monday where he is returning early to go out for football. He has out-grown me and I hope will make the squad for a number of reasons.

They have opened a new addition to one of the hotels here this summer with the hope that they could accommodate

small conventions. It is quite attractive and would be a satisfactory place for our meeting and we would like to have you return to this area soon, especially as I did not get to participate in the meeting in Houston.

Margaret and I are looking forward to the meeting and to perhaps a few additional days in Colorado. The tentative program brings credit to the program committee both for its content and its early arrival.

Looking forward to seeing you and our other friends...

* * *

Coed: "Darling, everyone has the right to be ugly, but you are abusing the privilege."

* * *

William H. Sweet - September 8, 1954



The Program Committee, via its Chairman, apologizes in advance for its errors of commission and omission in in planning and assembling the program for the coming Meeting.

While not using our recent hurricane as an alibi, I am sending along a picture of our front lawn after the lusty gusts had stopped. (8/31/54)

See you at the Broadmoor.

The wind blew in New England

Editorial Comment:

Bill is to be congratulated along with his committee for getting up an excellent program and getting it together in time for printing.

* * *

"Secret: Anything a woman doesn't know."

Hannibal Hamlin - September 10, 1954

My contribution to the Round Robin, prodded by your patient reminders, was interrupted by a hurricane. The eye of the storm traversed the heart of New England. Lowest recorded barometric reading - 28.27, wind velocity - 115 recorded - 150 estimated gusts. Another hurricane is said to be on the way - so please excuse us for not making the deadline for better copy for your excellent publication.

Editorial Comment:

We do have earthquakes out here.

* * *

Label on a box of fish in an express office: "If not delivered in ten days - PHEWI"

* * *

Eben Alexander, Jr. - September 10, 1954

If it is still possible I would like to add a note to the Round Robin Letter.

Courtland Davis and I have recently had a case here of hemolytic anemia with a hemoglobin of 3.5 grams who came in with a severe headache and complaint of noise in her head. She had a very loud bruit over her left forehead and left eye and over the neck which was partially obliterated by pressure over the left common carotid artery. However, as she was treated for her anemia and the hemoglobin came up to some 5 grams, she became much stronger and became almost asymptomatic. By the time the hemoglobin had reached 7 grams, her headaches had disappeared and also the bruit both subjectively and objectively. We found nothing else from the neurological point of view, and wondered whether others had seen intracranial bruits with any sort of symptomatology in the presence of a very profound anemia of this sort.

* * *

"An old timer is a man who never expected to see the day when a girl would get sunburned where she does."

"Butterfly: a worm who has won his wings."

"Highly educated: That's when you call the mooing of cows the lowing of kine."

* * *

Robert C. L. Robertson - September 23, 1954

When I write a letter its usually too late and this may very well be in the same category. I am, of course, looking forward to the meeting at Colorado Springs with the anticipation I usually reserve for Academy meetings. For one thing, it's the time of year when I can depend on seeing some of my best friends.

Our meeting at Santa Fe was extremely enjoyable but I believe you and Marjorie still hold the championship for your Santa Barbara show, and it is possible you will keep this singular honor.

It seems we have spent almost the entire summer operating on one poor guy and this is pretty discouraging.

We have a residency training program in the Baylor Medical School in Neurology and Neurosurgery. It is separate but we are coordinating them. We have five hospitals involved in the program and since this is new we are short of residency material in the personnel department. Bill Fields in Neurology can use two residents - we could use from six to ten more neurosurgical residents. If any volunteers are available we want them - at least for consideration.

See you in Colorado Springs.

* * *

"Knowing when to say nothing indicates a fine command of the language."

* * *

William B. Scoville - September 27, 1954

(The following is an amusing description of a typical neurosurgical operating room as described by Dr. H. G. Thompson, President of the Staff of the Hartford Hospital at the Alumnae Day gathering, June 19, 1954.)

Neuro-Surgeons

Now we come to that Service powered by those twin "after-burning" J-57 Jets who, grasping the gelatinous nucleus pulposus from the uncertain hands of the hesitant orthopods have transformed it into the solid gold nugget of the Neuro-Surgeon; to the service where no man is permitted to lie down flat on his back and in simple dignity be explored, but where all must be carved like graven images in grotesque and tortured postures, varying from sitting straight upright to the kneeling pose of the guillotined, with head poised like a monstrous scuffed golf ball upon a tee; or to lying in prone subjugation with outstretched arms and pinioned legs like a thief on a fallen cross; to the department whose operating rooms are festooned with seductive images of the unclad, luscious Marilyn Monroe; (where a curtain was drawn down in sorrow before her naked anatomy upon the occasion of her romantic adventure with Joe DeMaggio---that was the day when Beecher drove Ben Whitcomb and Jim McCormick to New Haven at 102 miles an hour!)---to that realm of super-men who, in operating, stride about on platforms high above the level of their floor-bound fourth removed cousins the general surgeons, (removed by entire spheres from the adjacent gynecologists) and in their green-garbed uniforms, capped by slotted helmets, probe through the bony cranial cage like expert whalers of old for the priceless ambergris---oftimes in their fierce intensity sucking the very souls of men down into the bloody vacuum bottle, thence commingled to traverse the gloom of Hartford's noisome underground labyrinths, eventually to be borne by the placid Connecticut to the sparkling sea from which they are drawn Heavenward by the sun in pure distilled aqueous droplets, there to be supercharged and sped to earth to inhabit the agitated pale green embryos of future neuro-surgeons.

* * *

QUO VADIS