

Notes and Announcements

The Canadian Association of Neurological and Neurosurgical Nurses (which has now changed its name to the manageable title of Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses) welcomes physicians and surgeons in the neurosciences to Associate Membership. Application, with a cheque for \$40.00, should be sent to the C.A.N.N. provincial councillor whose name is listed in the current issue of AXON, or to Sharon Nunn, 5424 Chaffey Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 2S2.

The University of Western Ontario will host the **First Canadian Symposium on the Organic Dementias** at University Hospital, London, Ontario, on 23 - 24 June, 1986. Further information may be obtained from Professor M.J. Ball, M.D., Division of Neuropathology, Health Sciences Centre, London, Ontario N6A 5C1. The objectives of the symposium are "to provide participants with the most up-to-date information on current research advances in both the clinical and basic laboratory investigations of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias; and to create a forum conducive to the frank exchange of ideas between prominent Canadian authorities and other international neuroscientists".

The Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital will hold a **meeting on neuro-oncology** on 5 - 6 June, 1986. Topics to be discussed will include basic research, medical and surgical aspects of neuro-oncology, and new techniques in diagnosis and treatment. The presentations will include photodynamic therapy of malignant brain tumours (Dr. Paul Muller, Toronto), the role of pharmacology in developing new treatments of brain tumours (Dr. David Stewart, Ottawa) and immunotherapy of brain tumours (Dr. de Tribolet, Switzerland). Further information can be obtained from Dr. J.-G. Villemure, 3801 University Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2B4.

Charles Tator takes over the **presidency of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society** from Stanley Schatz after the latter's triumphant term which culminated in the neurosurgical World Congress. The continuing campaign towards the prevention of spinal injuries on the roads, in the work place, on the rink and playing field, and in the water will be a major theme of the Society's programme. The Council of the Society at its meeting in July 1985 gave formal approval of this intention.

It is unlikely the Ontario Government's ending of extra billing will immediately cause neurosurgeons or neurologists sleepless nights. But if some adjustment in the OHIP payment schedule cannot be devised to compensate neurosurgeons for rocketing increases in CMPA annual dues, the worm will turn. Let us hope that a pragmatic compromise can be negotiated, free from doctrinaire poison either from the left (Queen's Park) or the right (Ontario Medical Association).

The only member of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society to publish his autobiography has been Wilder Penfield. That is, until **W.J. O'Callaghan** came along. I suspect that writing has always been his first love (he was a Grade 12 provincial prize-winner in English) and that neurosurgery has been the

means to an end, like bank-telling for T.S. Eliot. **How I Flew the Forties** (NeWest Publishers Ltd., Edmonton, Alberta, 1984, pp. 194), is O'Callaghan's autobiography to the age of 15 — to the age of tingle, as he calls the pubertal upheaval.

Material and financial privation, and puritanical (yet Roman Catholic) upbringing at home and school made bearable by the intimacy of the Gang of Six, are the settings for the story. O'Callaghan's skill as a raconteur makes the exploits of the Gang entirely believable, and the few embellishments of artistic licence entirely forgivable. Such a conspiratorial identification with the male juvenile state is rare in someone who left it behind 40 years ago. It is even rarer to create it in print for instant recognition and sympathy from those of us who think we remember when, in truth, we have almost forgotten.

The hilarity which is born out of every disaster to gang members never palls. Dialogue is masterful and the pace swift. It is not an adult's memoir, but a book written by a small boy magically blessed with words. What is it in the prairie air that clears the mind to see the funny sides of life in all its hardness?

1985 External Reviewers

Manuscripts submitted to the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences are generally sent for review to one member of the editorial board and one or more external reviewers. The Journal wishes to express appreciation to the following individuals who served as external reviewers in 1985.

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