Commemorative Article


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The author, who was Editor of the *Journal of Neurosurgery* from 1975 to 1985, recalls the history of the *Journal* during the 15 years beginning in 1965, when Dr. Louise Eisenhardt resigned as its first Editor. In an addendum, he presents some thoughts on the future of neurosurgery and the role the *Journal* should play in it.

**KEY WORDS**  *Journal of Neurosurgery*  ·  Henry Heyl  ·  history of neurosurgery

Dr. Bucy's survey of the origin and development of the *Journal of Neurosurgery* (Vol. 21, 1964) included a commentary on an extremely critical period in the history of the *Journal*. In 1958, manuscripts had piled up by the dozen, awaiting the meticulous checking of references and editorial and redactory talents of Dr. Eisenhardt. It was apparent that steps would have to be taken to increase the number of pages of this bimonthly organ and to seek other means of achieving more prompt publication of acceptable manuscripts. Suggested changes received surprisingly negative responses from Mr. Charles Thomas, whose company had been official publishers of the *Journal* from the beginning. Throughout the ensuing struggle, Dr. Bucy’s efforts were impressive and successful, resulting in removal of the *Journal* from Springfield, with the Harvey Cushing Society becoming the official publisher. The George Banta Company remained the printing agency, and Dr. Bucy agreed to take on the task of Director of Publications in 1959. A shift from single- to double-column pages was made in 1961 with publication of Volume 18. In 1962, the *Journal* became a monthly publication, and the first Cumulative Index covering the initial 20 volumes was printed in 1964.

Dr. Henry Heyl became Editor and the Editorial Office was moved from Chicago to Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1965. That same year, the *Journal* was divided into two volumes per year. The backlog of manuscripts was caught up, and subsequent issues appeared promptly and regularly. April, 1969, saw the initiation of a quarterly supplement, the *Neurosurgery*.
cal Biblio-Index, prepared in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine.

In 1973, Dr. Bucy retired from his office in Chicago and arrangements were made with the Williams and Wilkins Company to handle advertising, subscriptions, and Journal accounting. That same year, the George Banta Company found it necessary to discontinue printing a journal of our size. Beginning with the April, 1973, issue, printing of the Journal was carried out by the Dartmouth Printing Company.

The death of Dr. Heyl in March, 1975, was a great loss to society and to the Journal. Mrs. Jean Lawe as Deputy Editor took on the added burden of his duties until the appointment of Dr. Henry Schwartz as Editor in July, 1975. She and her staff in Hanover have continued to do a superb job.

Cumulative indices were prepared covering Volumes 1–20 and 21–40, culminating in the 35-year survey published in 1980, which included the authors and subjects contained in Volumes 1 through 50.

In January, 1979, the Journal adopted a larger size format with the issuance of Volume 50. This has resulted in accommodation of the steadily increasing number of published articles, at the same time effecting economies in production costs.

Every effort has been made to preserve a balanced clinical and scientific presentation in the pages of the Journal. From time to time, special publications have appeared. Among these, the following few are mentioned: a) 38 Neurosurgical Classics, edited by Dr. Robert Wilkins; b) Neurosurgical Techniques introduced by Dr. Eben Alexander in 1966 (Vol. 24) and completed in 1972 (Vol. 37); c) Cooperative Study on Intracranial Aneurysms, published in 10 sections in 1966; d) Symposium on Parkinson’s Disease, co-sponsored by the Veterans Administration in 1966; e) Supplement on Trigeminal Neuralgia in 1967; f) Report on the Neurosurgical Program Directors Meeting, “The Education of a Neurosurgeon,” 1969; and g) Report on the National Head and Spinal Cord Injury Survey, by the Office of Biometry and Field Studies, NIHCD, 1980.

The high standards set by the founders of the Journal have been upheld through the dedication of the members of the Editorial Board who have devoted much time and energy to thoughtful review of papers contributed by authors throughout the world. In August, 1980, the total number of manuscripts received over the years reached 10,000. Gratitude is expressed to the past Chairmen and Members of the Editorial Board.  

Addendum

At the dedication of the new National Office Building on December 10, 1983, some reminiscent comments were made about the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the early days of the society. I concluded that presentation with the following statement.

“There has been some question as to where we go from here and whether we've gone in the right direction. I'd like to quote Dr. Cushing on the occasion of his 70th birthday in 1939: 'I'm aware that this is not strictly a society of neurosurgeons. Its membership is open to others who are in allied lines of work. On this there might be no end, for practically all disorders to which mind and body are heir, first or last, come to affect the nervous system.' Cushing visualized the tremendous role of neurosurgery, not only in the limited area of brain tumors, but in the functioning of the brain through hormonal controls, and perhaps even in the chemistry of mental disease. How does the brain produce new insights and judgments? How do our nerve cells generate consciousness and how do they receive or produce thoughts that lead to physical as well as intellectual action? The neurosurgeons of the coming decades are in a unique position to pursue such investigation in the clinic, in the laboratory, and in the operating room. The Journal has to keep its pages open for contributions of high scientific caliber. Bigger is not necessarily better. There is still, in my opinion, a place for elitism. And this is where the AANS and its Journal should continue to stand.'

Acknowledgment


References


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