

EDITORIAL

Thanks to the journal *Neuropädiatrie*, we have here at our immediate disposal the abstracts of the 1979 Meeting of the European Federation of Child Neurology Societies in Brussels, the 5th of a series of Symposiums initiated and inspired by *Ronald Mac Keith*.

This Conference covers a variety of topics, including diseases affecting the brain before birth, blindness and oculomotor disorders, the results and hazards of radiotherapeutic and chemotherapeutic treatment of brain tumors, and the intricate problems of diagnosis and classification of chronic polyneuropathies.

On the whole, these conditions account for an important proportion of mental, motor and sensory handicaps in childhood. Although some progress has recently been made, much remains to be learned in these matters.

In this way the subjects discussed at this meeting can be said to illustrate two of the main characteristics of neurological disorders in childhood which justify the autonomy of Pediatric Neurology and account for its present vit-

ality, namely that they represent a central problem in child health, and also constitute a field still vastly open to research.

It is our hope that this meeting will contribute to establish solid links between the national and regional Neuropediatric Societies of this Federation, and promote further collaboration among them. We have tried this year to organize a collaborative study between various European Centers on one of the themes: the chronic polyneuropathies. There are indications that important informations have been gained from this effort, and we trust that this formula will prove rewarding in the future.

We are grateful to the prominent guest speakers who have accepted to participate to this Conference.

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