

J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiat., 35, 4, Aug., 1972:

BURKE, D., ANDREWS, C. J., and LANCE, J. W.: Tonic vibration reflex in spasticity, Parkinson's Disease and normal subjects.

Summary: 34 spastic, 15 Parkinsonian and ten normal subjects were included in this study, which included a comparison of the effects of tonic vibration and tonic stretch reflexes. The results of tonic vibration and tonic stretch in both normal and Parkinsonian patients were essentially similar, supporting the contention that the rigidity of Parkinson's Disease arises from supraspinal influence on normal segmental mechanisms. Positioning the muscle on increased stretch enhanced the tonic stretch reflex in normal and Parkinsonian patients, but decreased it in spastic patients. On the other hand the T.V.R. was enhanced by muscle stretch in all three groups of subjects. The authors explained this phenomenon as follows: since the quadriceps muscle was being tested it is subject to autogenic inhibition via its secondary spindle endings as it is placed on increasing stretch, hence the decrease in the tonic stretch reflex. However, at the frequencies used, the effects of vibration are almost exclusively on the primary spindle endings. Placing the muscle on stretch therefore increases the stretch sensitivity of the primary endings and increases the reflex response to superimposed vibration. A reinforcing manoeuvre potentiated the T.V.R. in several subjects in each group. Since, when present, this potentiation outlasted the reinforcing manoeuvre it was concluded that reinforcement acts at least in part via the fusimotor system.

S.I.C.

J. Neurosurg., 37, 2, August, 1972:

SCHNEIDER, DIANA: Regenerative phenomena in the central nervous system — a symposium summary.

Summary: This article, as well as the editorial of this issue, gives a précis of the proceedings of a meeting sponsored by the National Paraplegia Foundation (U.S.A.) to tackle the so-far unrewarding problem of C.N.S. regeneration. Although this remains unsolved it was felt that further research was far from futile and that, in the light of information already obtained, the eventual answer may lie within the scope of contemporary science.

S.I.C.

Am. J. Occup. Ther., 26, 5, July/Aug., 1972:

MOORE, J. C.: Physiological Properties of Nerve Fibres. *Summary:* Despite its title, this article is primarily an attempt to review and elucidate the different nomenclature in present-day use, both with regard to the classification of nerve fibres and the vocabulary used to describe their 'properties and functions. It forms a very useful reference guide. Unfortunately, the scanty bibliography detracts somewhat from its value.

S.I.C.

Ned. tijdschrift voor fysiotherapie, Juli 1972:

NIEBAUER, G.: De zenuwreceptoren van de huid. *Opsomming:* Hierdie artikel sluit eintlik aan by die serie artikels oor die invloed van massage op die vel, waarvan 'n uittreksel in die Maart uitgawe verskyn het. Die skrywer het hom die laaste 20 jaar al besig gehou met die senuweestelsel van die vel. Hy wys in hierdie artikel op die belangrikheid van die neuro-hormonale selle (dendrietselle) in die epidermis, wat die prikkels van buite ontvang en hulle voortgelei na die senuweestelsel onder die epidermis. In die epidermis self is daar geen vrye senuwee-uiteindes nie. Daar is 'n verskil in die anatomie van die behaarde vel en die onbehaarde vel (handpalm en voetsool). In die behaarde vel is daar 'n netwerk van senuwees wat rondom die hare gerangskik is en wat die verskillende stimuli opvang. In die onbehaarde vel is dit die verskillende eindliggaampies (Meissner, Krause, ens.). Ook die samehang van die neuro-hormonale selle en die vegetatiewe senuweestelsel word bespreek. Hy eindig met 'n bespreking van die viscerokutane refleks wat van belang mag wees by die opheldering van die probleem van die lokalisasie van velsiektes.

B.G.

WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

From the Office of the President

October 17, 1972

To the Editor of the Journal:

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to bring to all members of your Association my very best wishes for the festive season and particularly for the year 1973.

During the past year, it has been my privilege to meet many therapists from many places both in their own countries and at various International conferences that I have had the opportunity to attend. These persons are representatives of our profession and there can be no doubt that there is a growing realization among physiotherapists of the importance of the work that we are doing, and also of the opportunities which exist to increase our potential. Thus, I have had many interesting conversations concerning the problems which beset us all — some apply more particularly to one than another, but all of us within the profession of physical therapy are going through a period of change as we try to assess the course which will be the most effective for the treatment of our patients and also for the establishment of the profession as a worthwhile one contributing in general to the health of the society we serve.

It has also been interesting to note the increasing social conscience of physical therapists as they become more involved in peripheral matters concerning physiotherapy and as they become more active on committees which are concerned with the total health care rather than with specific portions of it. This, I believe to be a good thing and truly meaningful for all of us.

In many places great concern is expressed about the direction that the education of physical therapists is taking. This, of course, is only to be expected in our rapidly changing world when so many of the health professions are involved in the same exercise. We cannot ignore it, nor should we, and it is essential that we find the answers adequate for the area in which we practise. We must not allow these decisions to be made by other parties, but instead we must work in concert with other members in the health field to bring about the total composite health care relationship.

As you are no doubt aware, during the period of June until this past August, I was involved in an extensive tour which took me to various parts of the world. Here, I was able to see physiotherapy in action. To all those who were concerned with the arrangements for my visits, I extend a very personal thank-you and an assurance that I was immensely interested in the things that I saw and the concepts which were expressed.

It is often difficult for members of Associations to realize our very close connection to the International Association but it is only through the realization that each of us has a responsibility to our National Association, and through this to the W.C.P.T., that we can hope to become a strong and influential body in world health affairs. And this we must do if we are truly interested in trying to improve our lot of our fellow man wherever they might be. Evidence of increase in exchange programmes, the acceptance of foreign-trained students by various countries, and the initiative being taken in providing programmes for upgrading of both national and international therapists is indication of our commitment.

At this time, I would like to suggest to each and every member of the physiotherapy profession that our individual contribution added together will make a mighty contribution to better health care throughout the world. Perhaps the best New Year's resolution each of us can make is to recognize this responsibility and work toward it in whatever way we can as individuals.

My very sincere best wishes to you all and my sincere thanks for the courtesies extended to me during this past year.

Yours sincerely,
(Miss) Doreen M. Moore, B.P.T., M.C.P.A.,
President — W.C.P.T.