

Preface to the Fourth English Edition

Since this book first appeared in German in 1967, the reading and study habits of medical students and physicians have changed dramatically. As foreign travel is now commonplace, many young physicians take part of their training abroad and thereafter continue to enjoy a lively exchange of experiences with colleagues in different countries. International communication, of course, requires a common language, and English has gradually become the predominant language for this purpose. The authors and publisher therefore decided to arrange a translation of the 11th German edition into English.

The book is now 3 times its original length; since 1967, the number of illustrations has risen sixfold from 70 to 438, the number of tables from 30 to 210, and the number of references from 640 to about 2000. Its scope having widened over the years, this text, originally intended for beginning medical students, has come to be more suitable for advanced medical students with a special interest in neurology, for resident trainees, and for physicians in practice.

As a logical consequence of this development, the authors and publisher have decided to tailor the current edition for practicing physicians. Thus, we have omitted the sections concerning the basic neurological examination and ancillary tests in neurology, while introducing a substantial

amount of new material and providing greater detail on many of the topics previously covered. We have entirely rewritten the chapters on epilepsy, disorders of cerebral perfusion, extrapyramidal motor disorders, polyneuropathies, and myopathies. We have also considerably enlarged the sections on treatment in each chapter, as requested by readers of previous editions.

In order to keep the book from becoming unwieldy through the addition of so much material, we have not printed the reference list in the book, but have published it instead on the Thieme Internet site (<http://www.thieme.com/mm-refs>), where the abstracts of most references can also be read. The didactic aspects of the text and its graphic presentation have been brought up to date with the help of Ms. Susanne Huiss of Georg Thieme Verlag.

We have tried to make the book comprehensive, though not complete (which would be impossible in any case), aiming at a clear and understandable presentation of what we think are the more important aspects of neurological disease. We encourage readers to consult the amply cited references for more detail on particular matters of interest.

Many of the illustrations show imaging studies of the kinds that are now indispensable in clinical neurology. Physicians should order such studies,

in our opinion, mainly to confirm a diagnosis that has already been formulated on the basis of the case history and physical examination. It should be possible to arrive at a single diagnosis or a narrow differential diagnosis through a critical assessment and logical combination of these elements, in the light of an understanding of topical neurologic diagnosis and of the patterns of neurologic disease, which is what this book seeks to impart.

We have also written another, less comprehensive text, *Grundkurs Neurologie* (soon to be available in English as *Fundamentals of Neurology*), which provides an introduction to clinical neurology for medical students and allied health professionals. That text, unlike this one, includes introductory chapters on the neurological examination and on ancillary testing.

We are glad to have secured the collaboration of Dr. Ethan Taub, an American-trained and certified neurosurgeon practicing in Switzerland, for this English edition. He has not only produced an accurate translation of fine literary quality, but has also, through his familiarity with American medicine, succeeded in adapting this edition optimally to the standard practice and terminology of English-speaking physicians.

We would like to thank Dr. Thomas Scherb, Dr. Thorsten Pilgrim, Susanne

Huiss, M.A., and Rolf Dieter Zeller of Georg Thieme Verlag for designing and producing the German edition with such great care, and Dr. Clifford Bergman and Gert Krüger of Thieme International for managing production the English edition. We also thank all of the readers and friends whose critical advice has helped us eliminate errors and maximize the accuracy of the text. We gratefully look forward to more such advice in the future.

Many people have helped us obtain references and illustrations, reviewed parts of the manuscript critically, and participated in the technical aspects of book production. We would like to express our particular thanks in this regard to Professor G. Schroth, Dr. L. Remonda, Dr. K. Lövblad, Dr. F. Donati, Dr. K. Gutbrod, Professor Ch. W. Hess, Dr. G. Jenzer, PD Dr. K. Rösler, PD Dr. J. Mathis, Prof. C. Bassetti, Dr. A. Nirkko, and Dr. P. Imesch, as well as Dr. sc.nat. Karin Hänni and Dr. phil. Annelies Blum.

We hope that this translation of the book into the lingua franca of modern medicine will make it accessible to a wider audience, in the English-speaking countries and throughout the world.

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