

The ILAE 1935-1939

The League in its newly revived form consisted of only three chapters in 1935: the American, British and Scandinavian branches. Growth though was rapid, and by the end of 1936 there were 248 members: 86 members in America; 102 in Britain; 31 from Scandinavia (Sweden, 11; Norway, 5; Denmark, 14; Finland, 1); and also 29 members from countries without chapters.

Lennox published his vision for the ILAE in 1939. He urged that branches be set up in as many countries as possible *'for the ability of an organism to reach its destination depends on its legs and on its powers of co-ordination. In our organisation, the branches in various countries are the limbs, and the officers and "Epilepsia" provide for co-ordination.'*

He ended his paper with a curious message: *'The International League Against Epilepsy is an unselfish effort to assist an unfortunate group of the population. It is a patriot effort to do away with the economic losses which epilepsy causes. . . In addition to scientific and humanitarian aspects our League plays a part in maintaining the stability of civilisation.'* Sadly, world events a few months later were to prove this rather overoptimistic.

