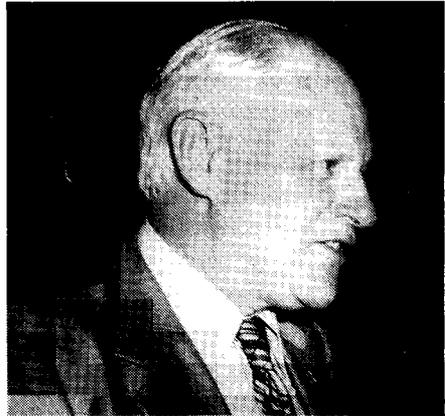


Maurice Parsonage A typical Englishman?

At first sight one would describe Maurice Parsonage as a typical, responsible English neurologist. But what, one immediately asks, is typical? Looking around a meeting with a number of English neurologists one is immediately struck by his being atypical because there is no immediate way in which he resembles many of his colleagues. He has made a number of studies of the social aspects of epilepsy and his non-medical friends have to be careful in making ill-considered assessments of any of his patients. He has a wide understanding of behavioural factors due to his extensive reading of the works of Carl Jung. He has an international viewpoint possibly because his mother was a citizen of the United States of America before her marriage.

His father was a dental surgeon in a Midlands town in England and he went to school in Cheshire afterwards studying medicine in Manchester and qualifying just before the outbreak of war in 1939. After some years at the famous Military Hospital for Head Injuries in Oxford, where he worked under Sir Hugh Cairns he went with the Royal Army Medical Corps to India and the Far East. He was a Lieutenant Colonel before returning to civilian life when the war was over. From 1947 to 1951 he was enlarging his experience in neurology at Guys Hospital and the National Hospital in London and had six months in the New York Neurological Institute (Columbia) before being appointed at the end of that time to the Leeds General Infirmary. Here, as consultant neurologist and in York as director of a special centre for epilepsy, he has worked to establish a service of excellence for people with epilepsy in the North of England.

He relates that in 1961 he had the 'misfortune' to meet the then General Secretary of the British Epilepsy Association. This meeting led him into an additional activity on behalf of epilepsy becoming one of the main speakers in the educational programme for public information which the Association was then building up. Regrettably there is no record of the number of courses, conferences, medical meetings and seminars in which Maurice Parsonage has taken part — always as a volunteer. There was one time when the tally reached one hundred occasions, but that is now several years ago.



'Worse' he says, 'was yet to come.' Because of his great facility to talk to all types of audience in a straightforward, uncomplicated manner he was an obvious choice when the International Bureau for Epilepsy wanted a team of speakers to carry out a programme of travelling workshops on epilepsy. In 1972 a small group of four people, of which Maurice was one undertook the mammoth task of visiting eight African countries in six weeks. Together they faced the difficulties of long travel, planes that went in the middle of the night and arrived in the dawn when no one was up, of excessive heat, doubtful food sometimes with disastrous results and at the end of that time they still liked each other. In quite the early days of the trip when a hotel where there should have been rooms did not have any vacancies Maurice got understandably worried and the female member of the party said 'For goodness sake Maurice, I can't bear people who FUSS.' He didn't shout back, or justify himself but just said very quietly 'I am so sorry, I am afraid I am a person who takes a little time to adjust'. But this slow determination to get to grips with the changes was the keynote of the trip. Going to lecture to medical students and finding that they seemed to be student nurses, talking to a hundred mothers with 200 children through an interpreter who obviously introduced his own ideas, having a patient ushered in for consultation without any warning and no indication as to the nature of the complaint — these were all taken with equal calmness. Any question whether asked by a professor, a nurse, a teacher or an ordinary layman was treated with the same degree of care and time. And at the end of

this tour, changing his lecture for different audiences from day to day he then produced a prestige scientific paper at the First International Conference organised by the South African National Epilepsy League in Johannesburg.

In 1974 – Four two or three day conferences in India where his previous experience stood us all in very good stead. In 1976 – Kenya and South Africa revisited chiefly for the South African National Epilepsy League Conference in Cape Town, but including meetings in Durban and Johannesburg as well as many meetings in Kenya where we talked to medical students, post graduate medical conferences, social workers and a teacher's training college. Why has he been prepared to qualify as few others have for the award as an Ambassador for Epilepsy? Mainly, he says, through natural pleasure and interest in helping people to understand. Anyone who has heard his absorbing lecture on partial epilepsy needs no convincing that this is so.

Maurice Parsonage was chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the British Epilepsy Association for five years, president of the British Branch of the International League against Epilepsy for the same length of time, chairman of the International League's commission on Anti-Epileptic Drugs and is currently chairman of the International League's committee on Driving Licences and Epilepsy. He is also a member of the Advisory Medical Panel of the United Kingdom Department of Transport.

On reflection, perhaps not such a typical neurologist?

George Burden, U.K.

Dear Ted,

Attachment "Maurice Parsonage 0000-2009 preparatory info.doc" has copied material with hidden links and will take some time after opening to sort itself out. Please, only start working with it when the hourglass has returned to an arrow (at least I hope your cursor also uses these two icons for saying "I am still busy" and "point me to what you need").

A first screening of three information sources provided me with the following:

The first concerns information available through the Yahoo search engine. This I present as rough material is contains all kinds of information for example that a neurologist David Stevens recipient of the Association of British Neurologist medal had trained at the feet of Maurice Parsonage. You can access this list by searching for Maurice Parsonage in the Yahoo Search Machine. I have not applied a similar search to the Google search Engine, I just had a quick look and did note that the results are different. I found a brief communication announcing a leaflet of the BEA not found elsewhere:

Br Med J. 1970 August 15; 3(5719): 407. Epilepsy and Driving : J. W. Aldren Turner and Maurice J. Parsonage

The second list is harvested from PUBMed. Numbers 6 through 46 refer to publications of Maurice. Not all of them are about epilepsy. Two additions have been made from the Index of Epilepsia.

The third list is derived from the "Newsletter of the International Bureau for Epilepsy" (and its successors e.g. International Epilepsy News). A short Curriculum Vitae published in IENews 1979 I have also attached as two separate PDF file (unfortunately "read only"). In the latter his service in India is mentioned. This fact regularly turned up during our mobile workshop in India. Another of his army experiences was testing of pilots for the RAF using the water pitressin test (presumably before he went to India). If the recruit got a seizure below a certain dose he was not allowed to become a pilot, as he might have epilepsy and the loss of a plane due to a seizure was much worse than having one pilot less.

In this curriculum his Chairmanship of the Commission on Anti Epileptic Drugs of the ILAE is mentioned (see also *Epilepsia*, 115-117, 1978.) But of this you are aware as you also belonged to this commission.

I hope this will help you to compose the obituary. As you note we do not know his birthday which should be in approximately (1939 – 24) 1915, but I expect you will contact his son(s). By the way is the author of *Lesson of the week: a new cause of treatable dementia.; Parsonage MJ, Hart E, Wilkins EG, Talbot PR.; Age Ageing. 2004 May;33(3):315-6*, one of his sons?

Best regards

WEB RESULTS from Yahoo's Search Engine

On

WEB RESULTS

1. [Advances in Epileptology: Proceedings - Book at Yahoo! Shopping](#)

Yahoo! Shopping is the best place to comparison shop for Advances in Epileptology: Proceedings - Book. Compare products, compare prices, read reviews and merchant ...

shopping.yahoo.com/p:Advances in Epileptology: Proceedings:3000884884

2. [Parsonage Turner Syndrome - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

Those who suffer from Parsonage-Turner experience acute, sudden-onset pain ... It is named for Maurice Parsonage and John Turner.[1] [edit] References ...

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parsonage_Turner_Syndrome - [Cached](#)

3. [Parkinson's disease; a new approach to treatment: report of an ...](#)

Get this at a library near you! -- Author: [G F B Birdwood; S S B Gilder; C ... Hotel, London, 2-5, June 1971, under the chairmanship of Dr. Maurice Parsonage. ...

www.worldcat.org/oclc/1710816 - 76k

4. [COMPENDIUM OF THE EPILEPSIES](#)

Parsonage, M. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 1974 October; 37(10): 1183. PMID: PMC494873 ... Reviewed by Maurice Parsonage. Full text ...

www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=494873

5. [ANTICONVULSANT THERAPY](#)

Parsonage, M. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 1975 April; 38(4): 415. PMID: PMC491981 ... Reviewed by Maurice Parsonage. Full text ...

www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=491981

6. [BookFinder.com: ISBN list \[e3b61056\]](#)

Search engine that finds the best buys from among 150 million new, used, rare, ... Hotel, London, 2-5, June 1971, under the Chairmanship of Dr Maurice Parsonage ...

www.bookfinder.com/dir/e3b61056 - [Cached](#)

7. [Parkinson's disease Books](#)

Find the lowest price on new and used Parkinson's disease Books ... Hotel, London, 2-5, June 1971, under the Chairmanship of Dr Maurice Parsonage ...

www.allbookstores.com/Parkinson's_Disease_p12sd.html - Cached

8. Maurice John Parsonage (www.whonamedit.com)

Maurice John Parsonage: Associated with: Parsonage-Turner syndrome ... This survey of medical eponyms and the persons behind them is meant as a general ...

www.whonamedit.com/doctor.cfm/1022.html - Cached

9. Proceedings of the Association of British Neurologists Autumn Meeting ...

Alert me when this article is cited. Alert me when eLetters are posted ... neurological feet of Bryan Matthews, Hugh Garland, and Maurice Parsonage before ...

jnp.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/76/1/150

10. India Together: Epilepsy patients are fit to drive - 11 February 2008

Send to a friend. • Printer friendly version ... last 10 years, the Maurice Parsonage Commission on Driving Licence Regulations ...

www.indiatogether.org/2008/feb/law-epilepsy.htm - 56k - Cached

11. JNNP -- Table of Contents (38 [2])

Only Abstracts and PDFs available for this issue. Other Issues: ... Maurice Parsonage ... R S Maurice-Williams ...

jnp.bmj.com/content/vol38/issue2 - Cached

12. Epilepsy surgery : overview Of forty years experience. Daniel RT ...

Neurol India is an peer-reviewed biomedical periodical of ... XIVth Epilepsy International symposium, Maurice Parsonage (Ed) Raven Press, New York 1983. ...

neurologyindia.com/article.asp?issn=0028-3886;year=1999;volume=47;i... - 63k - Cached

13. Disease Information for Brachial neuritis (Parsonage Turner)

... Brachial neuritis (Parsonage Turner) Definition: Parsonage Turner Syndrome ... Maurice John Parsonage. Jules Tinel. John W. Aldren Turner. Description: ...

en.diagnosispro.com/.../brachial-neuritis-parsonage-turner/11416.html

14. ABN :: Association of British Neurologists

The ABN Medal was established in 1996 and in the past has been awarded to such ... neurological feet of Bryan Matthews, Hugh Garland and Maurice Parsonage before ...

www.theabn.org/theabn/abnmedal2004.html - Cached

15. Parsonage-Turner syndrome (www.whonamedit.com)

Parsonage-Turner syndrome: A now obsolete eponym once used to indicate many ... Maurice John Parsonage. Jules Tinel. John W. Aldren Turner.
Description: ...

www.whonamedit.com/synd.cfm/1910.html - Cached

16. 0890048541 - 0890054487: ISBN search: Books Price Comparison at 75 Book ...

0890048541 - 0890054487: ISBN search: compare book prices: new, used out of ... 14th Epilepsy International Symposium / Maurice Parsonage (Editor) / 0890049432 ...

www.bookfinder4u.com/isbn/0890048541_0890054487.html - Cached

17. Drug Industry Document Archive: Bookmark

United States District Court: Sealed Exhibits to the Affidavit of Thomas M ... David|Marx, Harpo|Johnson, Lara|Parsonage, Maurice|Socia, Han|Dash, Rick|Terisov ...

dida.library.ucsf.edu/tid/chb00a10 - Cached

18. Omnibiography.com - The largest directory of biographies on the Web

0 501. Parker, Charlie / Kansas / En. 0 502. Parker, Charlie / Kansas / En ... 0 595. Parsonage, Maurice John / United Kingdom / En ...

www.omnibiography.com/response.asp?cadena=p&exact=1&index=2&st=3-112k - Cached

19. History - Maurice 1st Reformed Church

First Reformed Church of Maurice was organized October 23, 1884. ... The present parsonage was built at a cost of \$37,603. June - 1971 ...

www.mauricereformed.org/History.htm - Cached

20. VTGrandpa.com Photo Gallery :: Methodist Parsonage

Fisher RS Parsonage M Beaussart M Bladin P Masland R Sonnen AE Remillard G: Epilepsy and driving: an international perspective. Joint Commission on Drivers' Licensing of the International Bureau for Epilepsy and the International League Against Epilepsy. *Epilepsia*, 35:675-84, 1994

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- 5: [Cocaine related chest pain: are we seeing the tip of an iceberg?](#)**

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- 6: [Epilepsy and driving: an international perspective. Joint Commission on Drivers' Licensing of the International Bureau for Epilepsy and the International League Against Epilepsy.](#)**

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- 7: [Discounting and health benefits.](#)**

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- ❑ **8:** [Highlighting epilepsy services.](#)

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- ❑ **9:** [Phenytoin-induced gum hypertrophy in patients with epilepsy.](#)

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- ❑ **10:** [Another opportunity to improve epilepsy services should not be lost.](#)

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Epilepsia

Volume 27, Issue 2, Date: April 1986, Pages: 166-169

GUEST EDITORIAL

Epilepsia

Volume 25, Issue 4, Date: August 1984, Pages: 405-407

A. Ward Jr., Maurice Parsonage

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13: [Treatment with carbamazepine: adults.](#)

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22: [Comparative trial of diazepam and pheneturide in treatment of epilepsy.](#)

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- 26:** [Hugh Garland \(1903-1967\).](#)

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- 28:** [Activation of the EEG by procyclidine hydrochloride in temporal lobe epilepsy.](#)

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- ☐ **33:** [Treatment of intractable temporal lobe epilepsy with pheneturide.](#)

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- 34:** [Parkinsonism associated with laryngeal spasm.](#)

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- 36:** [Causalgia.](#)

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- 37:** [A controlled factorial trial of the use of methylpentynol in the short-term reduction of anxiety during electro-encephalographic examination.](#)

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- 38:** [A case of podophyllum poisoning with involvement of the nervous system.](#)

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Search of the IBE Newsletter and its successor International Epilepsy News.

Dr Maurice Parsonage FRCP, Senior Lecturer Leeds University Medical School, Physician in Charge of EEG and Neurology Leeds General Infirmary has been made Ambassador for Epilepsy 1972, because of his participation in the Mobile Workshop in Africa March 19 – April 20

He was Editor of the Proceedings of the 5th Int. Epilepsy Symposium in London on Prevention of Epilepsy and its Consequences held July 1972.

He participated in a Workshop on Classification Revisited held in Heemstede May 1974.

December 1974 there is a report by Maurice Parsonage on “The designation at the beginning of 1972 of the Neuropsychiatric Unit of Bootham Park Hospital in York U.K. as one of three National Special Centres for Epilepsy. (This Unit was founded in 1966)

March 1975 his participation in the Mobile Workshop for South East Asia and Australia is mentioned.

June 1976 Parsonage, Bower, Richens, Jeavons and Burden conduct a Mobile Workshop in Kenya.

1977 Maurice Parsonage, Paul van der Lugt and Marc Beaussart are appointed as committee on drivers licences

1978 Maurice Parsonage is appointed on the Board of IBE as one of the representative of Individual Members.

1983 Maurice Parsonage, Richard Grant, Andrew Craig and Arthur Ward edit “Advances in Epileptology” IXth Epilepsy International Symposium. (Parsonage is addressed as: Honorary Consultant Neurophysician to the David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy).