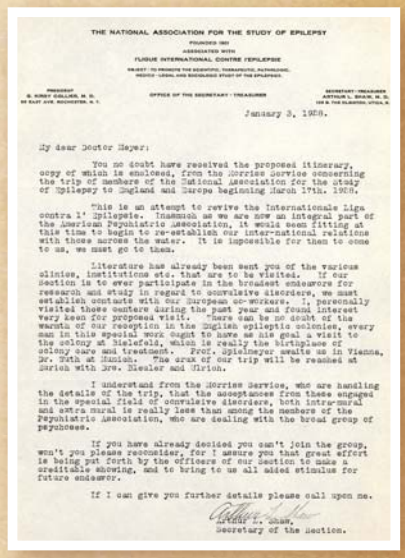
1914–1935
Years of Hibernation of the ILAE

The ILAE had made a good start between 1909 and 1914. By 1914, there were over 100 individual members and national committees in at least 17 countries (Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, England, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States). The League had a clear organisational structure and a distinguished committee of patronage, a defined work plan, a well–written constitution and statutes, and clear objectives. It was integrated with the permanent commission for the International Medical Congresses, and had held annual meetings in four different countries. It had a high–quality journal, itself with a distinguished committee of patronage and editorial board.



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF EPILEPSY

January 3, 1929.

My dear Doctor Meyer:

You no doubt have received the proposed itinerary, copy of which is enclosed, from the Morriss Service concerning the trip of members of the National Association for the Study of Epilepsy to England and Europe beginning March 17th, 1929.

This is an attempt to revive the Internationale Liga contra l' Epilepsie. Inasmuch as we are now an integral part of the American Psychiatric Association, it would seem fitting at this time to begin to re-establish our international relations with those across the water. It is impossible for them to come to us, we must go to them.

Literature has already been sent you of the various clinics, institutions etc. that are to be visited. If our Section is to ever participate in the broadest endeavors for research and study in regard to convulsive disorders, we must establish contacts with our European co-workers. I, personally visited these centers during the past year and found interest very keen for proposed visit. There can be no doubt of the warmth of our reception in the English epileptic colonies, every man in this special work ought to have as his goal a visit to the colony at Bielefeld, which is really the birthplace of colony care and treatment. Prof. Spielmeyer awaits us in Vienna, Dr. Juth at Munich. The crux of our trip will be reached at Zurich with Drs. Bleuler and Ulrich.

I understand from the Morriss Service, who are handling the details of the trip, that the acceptances from those engaged in the special field of convulsive disorders, both intra-mural and extra mural is really less than among the members of the Psychiatric Association, who are dealing with the broad group of psychoses.

If you have already decided you can't join the group, won't you please reconsider, for I assure you that great effort is being put forth by the officers of our Section to make a creditable showing, and to bring to us all added stimulus for future endeavor.

If I can give you further details please call upon me.

Secretary of the Section.

On 28 June 1914, Franz Ferdinand, crown prince of the Austro–Hungarian Empire, was assassinated in Serbia, and Europe was plunged into the First World War. In the summer of 1914 no one believed the war would last long, and in *Epilepsia*, a brief note was published: '*Because of the European war, the meeting of the International League Against Epilepsy has been adjourned until the summer of 1915*'. The expectation that the adjournment would be brief was, sadly, wildly optimistic.

The ILAE went into hibernation, and no further activity took place until 1928, when a group of American epileptologists and psychiatrists set sail for Liverpool on the *S S Caronia* in an attempt to 'to revive the Internationale Liga contra l'Epilepsie'. The group visited all the major European epilepsy centres and met with ILAE members such as Muskens, Alfred Ulrich, Henri Claude and Otto Wuth. The attempt failed, however, and the League stayed dormant.