

THE GROWTH IN ILAE CHAPTERS

As it enters its second century, the ILAE is a big organization, with chapters in over 100 countries and about 20,000 members. For many years, though, the League was much smaller. Prior to 1935, membership of the ILAE was by individuals not national chapters (although national committees were formed – and on the graph, for 1909 and 1913, the number of national committees is shown) and comprised 106 members in 1911 from 19 different countries. At this stage, the ILAE was beginning to thrive. The First World War, however, put an end to all this. At its re-organisation in 1935, there were only 3 chapters – Great Britain, the United States and Scandinavia, and by 1939, 5 chapters. Again, activity was terminated by the Second World War. In 1945, the British and American branches were revived and by 1953 there were 10 chapters. Growth was then initially slow as the ILAE became absorbed in its failed merger with the IBE. At this time, the ILAE played second fiddle to larger organisations such as the International Federation of Societies of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. However, after 1981, the ILAE began to rapidly expand. By 1989 there were 39 chapters and since then, ILAE chapter numbers have progressively increased, as has the number of individual members in each country.

