

LAUNCH OF THE 4TH SERIES OF EPILEPSIA

The fourth series of *Epilepsia* was launched in 1959/60. Sir Francis Walshe was chosen as its editor and Elsevier as its publisher. The format and editorial content of the journal were radically overhauled and the journal took a form which it largely retains. Walshe was ex-editor of *Brain* and a distinguished clinician scientist. His first editorial outlined his vision for the journal – a vision which has remained essentially the same to the present day:

‘[Epilepsia aims at] as wide a generality of understanding of the many and complex problems involved in epileptic manifestations ... [The journal should provide] informed, original and critical studies covering the fields of aetiology, pathogenesis, course, investigations of every relevant kind, and treatment both medical and surgical ... [it should address] all who seek to advance the study of epileptic manifestations: whether they work as clinicians, surgeons, electrophysiologists, biochemists or physical chemists. We are anxious to avoid a narrow specialism... We shall not encourage the isolation of epilepsy from the body of neurology or from that of general medicine.’

Walshe resigned from the editorship in 1961 after only 2 years, and also left the ILAE Executive Committee. The reasons are not entirely clear, although he alludes in one letter to difficulties in dealing with the AES and with Henri Gastaut, who he complained did not even have the decency to acknowledge his resignation letter. A very terse statement announcing his withdrawal appeared in *Epilepsia*, and the absence of any obituary in the journal after his death in 1973 is notable. Nevertheless, Walshe’s influence was immediately apparent. The quality of the issues of the early years was very high and the invited articles set standards of science which allowed the journal to develop strongly. The 4th series has been published continuously since 1959, and became the leading journal in the field of epilepsy.

