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SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS

SOCIETE D'ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIE ET DE NEUROPHYSIOLOGIE CLINIQUE DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Paris, March 3, 1971

Secretary: DR. M. DONDEY

8 Square Thiers, Paris 16e (France)

1. The effects of various ergot derivatives on the EEG and photosensitivity in *Papio papio*. — E. Balzano, B. S. Meldrum, R. Naquet and G. Vuillon-Cacciuttolo (Marseille).

The authors have previously studied the effect on *Papio papio* of LSD 25 and other hallucinogenic drugs such as psilocybine, dimethyltryptamine and mescalin. The present study concerns 7 ergot derivatives considered non-hallucinogenic. Lysergic acid and dihydroergotoxine methane sulphonate, in doses of 2 mg/kg, had no effect on the animals' behaviour, EEG or photosensitivity. BOL 148 (4 mg/kg) and methergoline (4 mg/kg) had a slight effect on behaviour and photosensitivity, whereas ergotamine tartrate (500 gamma/kg) blocked photosensitivity without affecting behaviour or EEG. Methysergide (5 mg/kg) caused slowing of the EEG and blocked photosensitivity. However, methylergometrine maleate (1 mg/kg) produced behavioural changes similar to those seen after administration of LSD 25; like the latter, it caused photosensitivity to disappear but, whereas with LSD the EEG became faster, here it was slowed as with methysergide or the hallucinogens such as dimethyltryptamine and psilocybine. The evoked potentials along the visual tract were altered but less distinctly than after LSD or psilocybine. The modes of action of the ergot derivatives on photosensitivity and on serotonin are discussed.

2. Absences and prolonged confusional states after the age of 60 years. — G. Amand (Louvain, Belgique).

The author reports 4 cases of petit mal status, each lasting several days, in patients aged 60, 63, 66 and 68 years, respectively. In 3 of these patients there were no epileptic features in the history. The absences were studied in detail: recordings from the beginning of the petit mal state, sleep recording, effect of Valium and of Cardiazole, study of cortical functions during and after the status. Two other patients also in their sixties are described, characterized by sudden onset of clouding of consciousness and an EEG showing certain characteristics of petit mal but having slower and sometimes lateralized features. The examinations of the second group were normal.

The patients' progress and the appearance of the records suggest that one case was of Gastaut's extra-territorial ischaemic syndrome and one a porto-caval or Jakob–Creutzfeldt encephalopathy. The clinical and electrical resemblances and the differential diagnosis between these types of disease are discussed.

3. Epileptic sequelae of carbon monoxide poisoning. — M. Cornette and G. Franck (Liège, Belgique).

The authors report the electro-clinical investigation of 2 young adults who presented in carbon monoxide coma of medium gravity; good progress was made in 24 h, one of them under classical therapy with O_2–CO_2, the other under hyperbaric oxygen therapy. After 6 and 9 weeks respectively, with no other neuropsychiatric symptoms, each patient presented a nocturnal convulsion which was shown by various EEG examinations to resemble focal epilepsy. There was no previous epilepsy and no evidence of an expanding cerebral lesion.

On the basis of these 2 cases and a review of the literature, the relationships between epilepsy and CO poisoning were discussed. Early convulsions are rare. They occur in patients presenting other signs of cerebral damage. Some of these patients may have persistent sequelar epilepsy as part of a severe neuropsychiatric syndrome. Late and isolated convulsions are exceptional. In view of the 2 cases described and a similar case by Bokonjic (1962) it must be accepted that isolated epileptic attacks may occur as a delayed sequel to poisoning, whatever the age of the victim and the gravity of the initial coma.

4. Inhibition of partial myoclonus during petit mal absences. — C. A. Tassinari, B. Dalla Bernadina, R. Soulayrol and J. Roger (Marseille).

A 15-year-old girl presented a syndrome consisting of epileptic attacks (short atonic collapse followed by absence), a severe non-progressive intellectual deficit and frequent partial myoclonus, sometimes resembling fine choreic movements. These abnormal movements appeared at the age of 7 years and persist to the present day without any other neurological signs.

The authors demonstrate polygraphically that the asynchronous, diffuse, partial myoclonus, which persists at rest and during movement, disappears during the typical petit mal absences with generalized, bilaterally symmetrical, synchronous 3/sec spikes and waves.