



Hazardous Activity Not For Epileptic

By W. G. BRANDSTADT, M.D.
Written for
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Epilepsy is one of the most misunderstood of diseases. In biblical times and in some parts of the world today epileptics have been thought to be possessed by evil spirits.

Now that we doctors have taken a closer look we know that epilepsy is not a single disease but that more than a dozen types of seizure have been lumped under this one term. The mechanism is an abnormal electrical disturbance in the brain but in most cases what causes this is unknown.

Much of the fear associated with epilepsy is due to this very fact—fear of the unknown, especially when it has to do with the brain. This is aggravated by the fact that the victim often has no way of knowing when he is going to have his next attack. In a few epileptics there are warning signs that come to be recognized as such and these persons can at least prevent a fall.

How would you feel if you woke up lying on a crowded sidewalk surrounded by gaping strangers and were told that you had fainted, fallen, gone into convulsions, drooled, frothed at the mouth, breathed heavily and snored loudly and rolled your eyes?

Since the epileptic has no recollection of any of these things, he is asked to take the word of strangers. Since he can neither prove or disprove their story he becomes embarrassed and resentful. If, in addition to this, he finds that he has bitten his tongue and perhaps urinated, his embarrassment is aggravated.

This is a description of the severe or grand mal attack. Many attacks are far less severe and may amount to only a momentary blackout.

Until the electric brain wave recorder was invented a few years ago, the diagnosis was hard to make because the attacks so rarely occurred when a doctor or other trained observer was present.

No matter how suggestive of epilepsy the description of a by-

stander might be, the doctor who examined the sufferer later could not be sure that the seizures were not hysterical or feigned. Now by examining the brain waves of an epileptic, even when he is not in an attack, a characteristic pattern can be recognized.

It might be well at this point to explode the myth that epileptics either are or will become insane. A few feeble-minded or insane persons also have epilepsy just as they may also have diabetes or dandruff. On the other hand many brilliant and talented persons in the past did not let this handicap prevent them from achieving greatness of one sort or another. Evidence points to the fact that Julius Caesar and Felix Mendelsohn were epileptics.

Because the attacks come suddenly and unexpectedly, the sufferer should not be allowed to swim, ride a bicycle, drive a car, climb a ladder or engage in any other activity that might endanger his life should an attack come. In general, alcohol should be avoided; plenty of restful sleep should be allowed, and mental and physical exercise (but not such contact sports as football, wrestling, and boxing) should be encouraged. Several drugs have been used with varying degrees of success.

Canada Lumber Laws Sought

WASHINGTON (UPI) — About 60 lumber industry officials met today to begin a drive for congressional action on such programs as limiting Canada's \$260-million a year lumber sales in the United States.

The conference, sponsored by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association began with a closed meeting to discuss priority programs.

Top goals set by the NLMA this year was limitation of Canada's softwood lumber exports to the United States.



INCREASE ACCEPTED — Alexander P. Chapin, chairman of the New York Shipping Association, announced that shippers agreed Tuesday to accept the recommendations of the President's special board for settling the 31-day-old waterfront strike. The proposal called for a 37-cent-an-hour package increase. — UPI Telephoto

Building By Bonding Plan Explored By Legislators

Rep. John Mosser (R-Washington County) and Sen. Alfred H. Corbett (D-Multnomah County) are exploring a method of providing needed higher education instructional buildings through bonding without special vote of the people.

"We are exploring amending existing statutes to provide a specific allocation of money from tuition, earmarked for paying off instructional buildings, laboratories and other facilities," Mosser and Corbett point out that existing law calls for a special student building fee, the proceeds from which go into a fund for paying off dormitory, student union and similar buildings.

"It seems logical that if charges can sustain self-liquidating projects like dormitories, the board could make similar allocations to cover the classroom buildings which are determined necessary to meet the unusually large increase in students," Senator Corbett and Representative Mosser said.

"The proposal has the advantage of avoiding the expense of a state-wide election," the two legislators argue, "and is feasible."

The present unused bonding capacity exceeds \$48 million. It is estimated that a special allocation of \$16 or \$17 a term would be sufficient to cover interest and retirement costs of bonds and maintenance of the new buildings. No increase in student charges would be required, they said.

Budgetary as well as statutory changes would be required. If the Mosser-Corbett plan is adopted, but the total dollars involved should not be any more than if general bonds are issued, they assert.

Mosser and Corbett point out that in the present higher education budget, a double standard is in effect with regard to buildings.

"While the governor has approved the entire \$25,977,000 requested for 'self-liquidating' projects such as dormitories and student activity buildings, building requests for instructional facilities have been cut by more than 50 per cent."

"This means that classrooms may not be constructed, although housing facilities are available. It would make more sense to build classrooms and dormitories at the same pace. Perhaps classrooms should be incorporated into dormitories, constructed and de-

British Politicians Mourn Gaitskell Death

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
Among British political opinion and London newspapers alike the reaction to the death of Labor party leader Hugh Gaitskell seemed unanimous.

Said the Conservative Sunday Telegraph: "It is a measure of Mr. Gaitskell's stature that his death has reduced the whole future of British politics to speculation."

The Sunday Express said that never before in modern British political history had the loss of a single leader dealt such a blow to a major party.

For Gaitskell was not only the helmsman of his party, he was also in many ways the designer of its present mould. He had modified the party's program of nationalization for British industry, he had overcome leftwing demands for ban-the-bomb and unilateral disarmament, and by sheer persistence led his party to the point where public opinion polls gave it 44.5 per cent of the vote and labeled him Britain's next prime minister.

He had described himself as a poor hater, yet he was able to take on the flamboyant Nye Bevan, a better hater than most, and defeat him in 1955 for the party leadership.

A quiet man, he could be goaded to anger. In Glasgow, followers of the Committee for Nuclear Disarmament attempted to disrupt a party rally which Gaitskell was addressing.

Snapped Gaitskell: "Go and see what it is like to deal with Soviet police and Soviet tanks like the Hungarian people."

signed in such a way that the room can be used during the day as a classroom, and as a library or social room in the evening, cutting down on underused space."

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Gaitskell came from a middle class family, the son of a civil servant. He never walked in a picket line, yet early decided that "my future belongs to the working class."

He became a don at London University, and in the Labor landslide of 1945 began a meteoric rise in government. All of this without flash or color, but as an intellectual.

The party platform was Gaitskell's own. Whether British voters will accept his successor as the creator's image or only as a poor carbon copy still must be determined.

Among possible successors there are two immediately outstanding. One is deputy leader George Brown, a likeable trade unionist who took over in Gaitskell's illness. The other is Harold Wilson, a brilliant man distrusted by some for his ambition.

It is not only over the Labor party that Gaitskell's figure still looms large. For the Conservatives of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan a break in Labor unity could mean a reprieve. For the upcoming Liberals of Jo Grimmond, it might mean a chance for fusion with Labor and an earlier chance than expected to participate in government.

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