Preface

In November 1988, a symposium entitled ‘Alzheimer’s Disease - New Horizon’ was held in Tokyo, Japan. Alzheimer’s disease was described for the first time by Alois Alzheimer on November 3, 1906, at a meeting held in Tübingen, FRG. Five years later, in 1911, Alzheimer published a well-known paper with the title ‘Über eigen-artige Krankheitsfälle des spateren Alters’ (On Cases of Peculiar Disease in the Aged). The front cover of the program of the Symposium was a reproduction of Alzheimer’s own signature and of his brilliant drawings of senile plaques and neurofibrillary tangles presented in his thesis. Dr. Alzheimer was 48 years old at the time of his publication and is reported to have passed away at the age of 52 years, in 1915, from rheumatic endocarditis. Seventy-four years have passed since the death of Alzheimer and during that interval remarkable progress and unexpected discoveries have been made; but an almost abnormally rapid rate of aging in the advanced societies stresses the importance of further researches in senile dementia of the Alzheimer type. An ancient Latin proverb, Quos deus vult perdere, prius dementat, can be translated as ‘If god wishes to destroy a man, he first makes him demented’. Thus, dementia has been one of the most feared diseases ever since the beginning of mankind. When we ponder over the dignity of life and the future of the human species, our ultimate objective, needless to say, is to find out the treatment and preventive means of Alzheimer’s disease. Seven scientists who are actively researching in Alzheimer’s disease reported on their most recent observations. Of these seven speakers from abroad, five are in their 30s and their average age is less than 40. They were therefore able to provide us with a substantial stimulus matching the new horizons of Alzheimer’s disease. Their reports constitute this supplement of *European Neurology*.
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