The Clinical Section of the Dutch Society of Gerontology

The Dutch Society of Gerontology was founded in 1947. In the first years of its existence membership was rather small and consisted mainly of physicians. For this reason most of the papers presented at the two to three meetings held each year were on medical problems of ageing and old age. Since 1957, the Society’s activities have considerably expanded. More meetings, often organized in old-age institutions, have been held, and a wider variety of gerontological subjects have been discussed. This has resulted in an increasing number of applications for membership of the Society both medical and non-medical. The total membership is now over 275.

As the papers presented at meetings were often of a general character, or only part of the small symposia had a medical bearing, physician-members more and more felt the need to meet separately, and this led to the establishment of the first Section within the Society, in the fall of 1958. When this Clinical Section met for the first time in November, 1958, already more than 90 physicians had become members; the number has now increased to 135. In the first working year, 1958-1959, two further meetings were organized, one a full-day’s Symposium on “Acute Cerebro-Vascular Disorders in the Elderly”. In the second year, 1959-1960, a programme of four meetings has been set up, the first and second were held in October and November, 1959. The third meeting will be in February, 1960, and the fourth, a Symposium on “Acute Life-Threatening Conditions in the Elderly” is to be held in April, 1960.

Some of the details of past and future programmes are listed below to give an idea of the subjects discussed:

November 1958
S.J.Eggink:
G. Hofman:
A. A. W. van Lier:
J. Th. R. Schreuder:

February 1959
W.J.Simon: S. Braaibaart: H.P.Akerman: A.C.Lit:

May 1959
J. Th. R. Schreuder:

Report of 400 autopsies in people over 65 years of age.
Vaginal smears in the post-menopause.
Heart diseases in old people.
Report on the First Symposium of the European Clinical Section of the L.A. G. at Sunderland.
Treatment of prostatic hypertrophy.
Indications, contra-indications and results of surgery in old age.
Lung tuberculosis in the later years.
Characterologic and psycho-pathological aspects of Parkinsonism.
(Symposium on Acute Cerebro-Vascular Disorders)
Clinical symptoms; Therapy.
Morbid Anatomy.
Electroencephalography.
Neuro-psychiatric symptoms; aphasia.
Psychology of residual conditions.
Some statistical data.
Rehabilitation (with film).

October 1959 J. de Graaf: H. de Jager:
S. Braadbaart:
J. Th.R. Schreuder:
Vitamin therapy in mentally confused old people.
Autopsy data on carcinoma of prostate and stomach in the elderly.
Anticoagulants (report of the Second Congress of the European Clinical Section of the I.A.G. at Nancy and Vittel).
Osteoporosis (review of communications at Nancy and in the Netherlands).

November 1959  (With respect also to the Mental Health Year)
Prof. J. de Busscher  History and development of the treatment of psychoses in old (from Ghent, Belgium): age.
M. Kwant:  Group psychotherapy in the aged.
K. J. M. van der Loo: Some fragments from the psychology of old age.

February 1960 G. J. Tammeling: Prof. N. G. M. Orie:
H. J. Sluiter:
April 1960
Prof. A. Biemond: Prof. D. Durrer: Vroi. J. Groen (from Israel): J. E. Minkenhof: W. J. H. Schmidt:
Investigations in the lung function. Asthma in old people. Chronic cor pulmonale.
(Symposium on Acute Life-Threatening Conditions in the Elderly)

Acute neurological disorders in the aged.

Acute circulatory disorders.

The meetings have taken place up till now in the Psychiatric Hospital of the Free University of Amsterdam, with the exception of one, which was held in one of the Municipal Hospitals of Rotterdam. We plan to include meetings in other towns in our future schedule.

Other activities of members of the Clinical Section consist in drawing up of proposed standards for specialist geriatric training and the preparation for the Third Conference, of the European Clinical Section of the L.A. G., which it is proposed to hold in the Netherlands in 1961.
In the meantime, two other sections have been set up in the Society: a Social Research Section in December, 1958, and a Biological Section in November, 1959. The older section – the Clinical – still remains by far the largest and it does its share, as may be seen from this brief report, to arouse the interest of the profession in the geriatric aspects of medicine.
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