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Editorial Preface

The delay in appearance of this 5th volume is a source of chagrin to the editors. Most of the authors of the chapters herein submitted their manuscripts many months ago; Drs. Krayenbühl, Maspes and Sweet tender their humble apologies to the punctual essayists. Fortunately the sections on neurosurgical treatment of involuntary movements and of epilepsy were written at a time at which the subject had reached a relative plateau from which it has not moved in a major way. Although there are many rapidly changing areas in neurosurgery where knowledge is explosively expanding our diagnostic and therapeutic horizons, this group of chapters is not obsolescent by the time the reader will receive it.

This volume presents in one convenient place a comprehensive exposition and summary of the advantages and risks attendant upon the procedures worked out by each of the several active schools of stereotactic neurosurgery in the fields under discussion. We are thankful to the major exponents of each school for their willingness to undertake the arduous collation and evaluation of their efforts over the past quarter century. The product should enable the neurosurgeon to pick and choose from each school’s techniques and knowledge those features most convincing to him. We know of no comparable presentation.

It is noteworthy that 7 nations are represented in the 9 chapters in the volume, and that the 2 nations each providing two chapters are France and Japan. Indeed when we recognize that the Canadian group of Bertrand
and colleagues speak French as their primary language we become even more aware of the evidence of the eminence of the French culture in stereotactic techniques vis-à-vis the brain. If there was ever a monopoly on innovation and superior performance in neurosurgery among those whose native tongue is English, such a degree of dominance of that or any other national grouping is gone. There never was anything to prevent literally anyone from having a good idea. It is now apparent that favorable conditions are present in many cultures to permit such ideas from coming to fruition. It is equally apparent that no one can stay abreast of the field of neurosurgery if he does not keep himself cognizant of ‘what’s new’ from many quarters of the globe. It remains an objective of ‘Progress in Neurological Surgery’ to facilitate this global recognition of merit in our field.