Studies on Neuromuscular Diseases

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Preface

Our knowledge about clinical course and pathogenesis of neuromuscular diseases has expanded to a great extent during the last years. This was only possible by the development of new diagnostic procedures, many of which were contributed by clinical neurophysiology. Furthermore there has been a trend for closer cooperation between the different disciplines, electrophysiology, morphology, histochemistry and biochemistry. The 'Giessen Symposium' under its chairman Professor K. Kunze was
designed for discussing improvements of the methods employed in the diagnostics of neuromuscular diseases, with special reference to the aspect of quantification. This symposium was held in April 1973 subsequent to the annual German Neurological Congress and it was sponsored by the German Neurological Society. The attendance included about 100 participants coming from USA, England, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Denmark and Germany. The active support and interest of Professor F. Erbslöh, Director of the Department of Neurology of the J. Liebig University in Giessen and actually President of the German Neurological Society considerably aided the organization of the symposium and we wish to express our gratitude for his contribution to the success of the meeting. The considerable support of the 'Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft' is greatly acknowledged.

The present volume published with the help of S. Karger AG, Basel assembles most of the 57 papers delivered at the symposium as well as some of the discussions. It is the aim of the editors and of the publisher to continue with the present book a task which has been initiated by J. E. Desmedt with the publication of the extensive 3-volume treatise 'New Developments in Electromyography and Clinical Neurophysiology' (Karger, Basel 1973). The present volume may serve a useful purpose by providing additional information on a number of issues and it has been edited so as to avoid duplication of data already printed in that recent treatise.

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