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Frontiers in Vestibular and Oculo-Motor Research

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J. Stahle, Uppsala

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Brny Society Ordinary Meeting in Uppsala, June 1-3, 1978

Frontiers in Vestibular and Oculo-Motor Research

Liber-Amicorum in Honour of Prof. Hans Engström

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71 figures and 19 tables, 1979
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The Brny Society was founded in 1960, on the initiative of Professor C.O. Nyln and Dr. C.S. Hallpike, in order to honour the memory of the late Robert Brny, who was professor of oto-rhino-laryngology at the University of Uppsala, Sweden, from 1926 to 1936. Its aim is to promote contacts between scientists engaged in vestibular research and to stimulate otoneurological research.

According to the regulations the Society shall convene in Uppsala every fifth year in connection with the presentation of a gold medal, bearing the likeness and name of Robert Brny, by the medical faculty of the University of Uppsala. This medal is given to 'the scientist who during the previous five-year period has published the most valuable work concerning the vestibular apparatus, in the widest sense of this term'. Hitherto it has been presented seven times - to Adrian de Kleyn, Amsterdam (1948), A.A.J. van Egmond, Utrecht (1953), Charles Skinner Hallpike, London (1958), Alf Brodal, Oslo (1963), Gsta Dohlman, Lund (1968), Otto Lwenstein, Birmingham (1973) and Cesar Fernández, Chicago (1978).

After having been President of the Society since 1968, Hans Engström resigned from this position at the Society's ordinary meeting in Uppsala in 1978. His resignation also coincides with his retirement in December 1978 from the professorship in oto-rhino-laryngology at Uppsala University. During his presidency the number of members of the Society has increased considerably, while the high qualitative demands for membership have been retained. There are now 223 members. Hans Engström's time as President has been characterized by lively scientific activity, as evidenced by the fact that meetings of the Society have been held in Amsterdam (1970), Toronto (1971), Strasbourg (1972), Los Angeles (1974), Kyoto (1975), London (1977) and Uppsala (1978).

Hans Engström's fundamental and clear-sighted research has greatly influenced the activities at his department in Uppsala, and also the arrangements of the meetings of the Barany Society. As thanks to him for his successful guidance and leadership over the last decade, the Society wishes
to dedicate this book to him.

Preface X

There have been few scientists in our field whose research work has been so versatile and at the same time so profound. Hans Engström's research spans over a very large field, with morphology predominating. His first major work, which was also his doctoral thesis, was published in 1940 and was entitled 'ber das Vorkommen der Otosklerose nebst experimentellen Studien ber chirurgische Behandlung der Krankheit'. At the beginning of the 1950s his interest became focused on the ultrastructure of the internal ear, which led to a number of important observations. The surface specimen technique was another innovation which has gained wide application, especially in studies of cell changes caused by noise and ototoxic antibiotics. During the 1970s his research has been concentrated on the deleterious effects of noise on the internal ear, as documented by scanning electron micrographs of extremely high quality.

Hans Engström's research laboratories have become an important school for advanced studies of the internal ear, and have given inspiration to many collaborators and students, who have carried this line of research further. These include, among many others, Ades, Angelborg, Axelsson, Ballantyne, Bergström, Bredberg, Hawkins, Kellerhals, Lindeman, Rosenhall, Spoendlin, Watanuki and Wersil.

Hans Engström's creative research has received considerable international praise, as witnessed by the numerous medals and prizes which he has received, including the Purkinje medal (1964), the Shambaugh prize (1967), the Guyot prize (1969), the Paris city bronze medal (1974), the medal of the Uppsala Medical Association and the Gunnar Holmgren medal. To these we may also add the honorary membership of the Royal Society of Medicine, Otolaryngology, and membership of several other international societies.

It is the sincere hope of the members of the Brny Society and of Hans Engström's previous and present colleagues that he will be able to continue his purposeful, fundamental and imaginative research for many years to come.

Jan Stahle
President of the Brny Society