The Developing Brain and Its Disorders

Fourth International Symposium on Developmental Disabilities organized by
The Japanese Society of Child Neurology

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Foreword

The fourth International Symposium on Developmental Disabilities was held in Tokyo on November 3-5, 1983, under the sponsorship of The Japanese Society of Child Neurology. Previous Symposia were held in 1976, 1978, and 1981, all in Tokyo.

The primary object of these Symposia was to discuss and exchange
fresh ideas on the diagnosis, classification, treatment, and prevention of motor disturbance, mental retardation, speech problems, behavioral problems, and convulsive disorders in childhood—the most common clinical problems for child neurologists and extremely serious problems for the affected children and their parents and teachers.

At the 1981 Symposium, psychiatrists, parents, educational experts and child neurologists met and exchanged opinions on early detection and early intervention, as well as practical methods of how to care for affected children. But to cure the children with developmental disabilities, and (even more important) to prevent their occurrence, measures based on scientific investigation will need to be developed. The fourth Symposium consequently focused on biological aspects in the pathogenesis of developmental disabilities as the main theme.

The development of the brain and its disorders can be studied at the molecular level, the cell level, the tissue or organ level, and the level of the human being not only as a living individual but also as a member of society. In order to discuss the factors influencing brain development in their various aspects, distinguished guest speakers from every field were invited. The Symposium and the publication of these Proceedings were made possible by the cooperation of the participants and the sponsoring organizations. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the International Child Neurology Association, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Japan, the Japan Medical Association, The Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition, and the Japan Brain Foundation, for supporting this Symposium and publication.

Editors