Francis Lothian McNaughton

Francis Lothian McNaughton, the third president of the American Epilepsy Society, died in Montreal on February 27, 1986, at the age of 80. He was a man of admirable character and spirit. Beloved by all who knew him, he was faintly embarrassed by being generally known as Saint Francis, a most appropriate and affectionately bestowed nickname.

Born in Montreal, the son of a physician, he studied medicine at McGill and pursued his neurological studies at the National Hospital, Queen Square, where he formed a lifelong friendship with Sir Charles Symonds. Later, at Harvard, he developed a strong interest in neuroanatomy. On his return to Montreal, he worked at the Montreal General and the Montreal Children's Hospitals, and in 1957 he took over Neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute. The department blossomed under his gentle and constructive stewardship, and a never-ending stream of visitors from all over the world came to Montreal and stayed with the McNaughtons at 618 Victoria Avenue. He was a man of great warmth and kindness, an inspiring teacher, ever considerate of his patients, intent on shielding them from unnecessary suffering or risk. He was equally, and perhaps even more considerate of the bag lady who attended his clinic than of his patients who were captains of industry and heads of state.

His lifelong interests were epilepsy and headache. He studied the innervation of the meninges, and became an expert in the assessment and management of difficult headache problems. His junior colleagues marvelled at his ability to help people who had had daily headaches for 50 years. He developed one of the first epilepsy clinics in North America, evaluated new drugs, and established principles of treatment, stressing consideration of the social and emotional aspects of epilepsy, which continue to be valid today. He was one of the small group of pioneers who developed the first international classification of the epilepsies, and wrote about the evaluation of candidates for surgical treatment. He was one of the first, with David Howell, to stress the finding of focal features in patients with generalized epilepsy and laid the groundwork for the multifactorial hypothesis of the epilepsies, which was later developed and formulated by his colleagues and friends.

Neuroanatomy fascinated him. He initiated a multifaceted introductory course inspiring young people to study the nervous system and whetting their interest by demonstrating the clinical applications of neuroanatomy. This course remains a highlight of the medical curriculum at McGill and has served as an example to many other schools.

He was a vice-president of the American Neurological Association, and president of the Canadian Neurological Society. He was a neurologist's neurologist, and his diagnostic ability was legendary.

He worked until he was well into his seventies: he chaired the Ethics Committee at the MNI and at that stage in his career still formed new and lasting friendships with some of the young men and women coming from abroad.

Francis loved music, particularly the baroque and Mozart. He began to play the recorder in adult life and took great delight in participating in Neuro-musical International (NMI), which met unofficially and played at neurological meetings in many countries. His taste in art ran to the humane and social, and he shared with his close friend, the painter Louis Muhlstock, a love for the work of Kathe Kollwitz; borrowed examples of her work graced his consulting room.

Francis was devoted to his wife, Louise, and their three daughters, and in his later years lovingly doted on his little granddaughter.

In the social ferment of the thirties, when the flower of Canada's youth gravitated to Montreal, he was drawn into a circle of young people concerned with the availability of medical care to all.

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and with social justice. This circle included Norman Bethune, the hero of the Chinese Long March, whose flamboyant personality was so different from his own. He was a founding member of the Bethune Society and one of the first medical exchange visitors to China after the detente in the relations of this country with the West. He took part in the Services of the Society of Friends, and their concepts were an embodiment of his deep convictions. Above all, he was a great humanist always aware of the ideals of morality, honesty, truth, and righteousness. He lived up to these ideals unobtrusively and modestly, a shining example to his many admirers.

Francis was a rare spirit with qualities that radiated onto all he touched; our lives were enriched by him, and we will never forget him.

Frederick Andermann

Richard Dunlop Walter

Richard Walter died on September 26, 1986. At the time he was Professor of Neurology Emeritus at the UCLA School of Medicine. He was born in 1921 in northern California and seemed always to retain some homespun attributes, full of humor and understanding of people. He was well-known and well-liked throughout the national and international community of epileptologists.

His professional career spanned 25 years, which can be divided about equally between years of clinical research and practice, followed by his position as the second chairman of Neurology at UCLA. His specialized training was first in psychiatry, second in electroencephalography, and finally in neurology under Dr. Augustus Rose. He was recruited in 1955 to establish the Electroencephalographic and Electromyographic Laboratory.

His major contribution in the field of electroencephalography was the video-EEG analysis of spontaneous temporal-limbic seizures. After the introduction of depth electrode exploration of deep temporal sites (Crandall PH et al. J Neurosurg 1963;21:827–40), the initial observations of interictal discharges did not seem promising, but a number of ictal episodes by “hard-wire” recordings did. At this time, monitoring of brain wave activity was being developed in the UCLA Space Biology Program for use in chimpanzees (Adey WR et al. Proc Symp Biomed Surg. Marquette University, 1966;1:36–9). Beginning in 1969, adaptation of this equipment to a seven-channel device allowed radio-telemetry of EEG data from unrestrained patients 24 h per day and routine collection of seizure data, which was first published in 1971 (Dymond AM et al. Biomed Instrum 1971;8:16–20). Classification of ictal patterns of focal-type onset and regional focal onset became the principal criterion for surgery in otherwise difficult-to-localize patients at UCLA (Walter RD. In: Epilepsy—its phenomena in man. New York: Academic Press, 1973:99–118). Later, closed-circuit television and audio-monitoring were added. Video-EEG analysis of spontaneous limbic seizures improved the efficacy of anterior temporal lobectomy, made the operation available to more patients, and altered the surgical decision in many patients. Today, video-EEG analysis is widely used in epilepsy centers in the diagnosis of many epileptic disorders.

A second area of clinical research of interest to him as a psychiatrist was the origin of the vivid symptomatology of temporal lobe epilepsy. Using electrical stimulation studies, he explored limbic system sites eliciting the characteristic affective, psychical illusions, memory experiences, and other cognitions (Halgren E et al. Brain 1978;101:83–117).

As Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Director, Reed Neurological Research Center (1975), epilepsy programs were expanded, clinical neurophysiology established, and a chair for studies in neurobehavior established. Neuroimmunology and pediatric neurology were added to the department. Affiliated clinical research and teaching programs were supported at Wadsworth VA and Sepulveda VA and Harbor General Hospital. Dr. Walter himself was a superb teacher, making points...
with color and wit. The residency training program flourished.

Lastly, there were many contributions at the national level. He was a past president of the American Electroencephalographic Society (1972), American Epilepsy Society (1970), and held a number of offices in the American Academy of Neurology. He was chairman of the Epilepsy Advisory Committee, NINCDS, and an editor of two influential volumes—*Neurosurgical Management of the Epilepsies* and *Experimental Models of Epilepsy*.

He spared his colleagues the knowledge of his illness, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which lasted about 3 years. Characteristic of their private nature, he was cared for entirely at home by his physician—wife, Dr. Ruth Walter.

Paul H. Crandall, M.D.