

## TUBEROESE SKLEROSE

*Uebersicht über die humangenetischen Forschungsergebnisse der Jahre 1966-1972. Eine literarische Studie*

## TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS

*Results of Human Genetic Research in the Years 1966-1972. A Survey of the Literature*

By Robert Trojan (Trutnov, Czechoslovakia). Doctoral thesis, School of Medicine, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg 1975. Paperback, 14.5 × 20 cm, 57 pp. Distributed by the University Department of Human Genetics and Anthropology, Erlangen-Nürnberg, GFR.

VEROEFFENTLICHUNGEN DES MEDIZINISCHEN SCHRIFTTUMS IN DEN JAHREN 1933-1945 ZUM THEMA: "GESETZ ZUR VERHÜETUNG ERBKRAKEN NACHWUCHSES VOM 14. JULI 1933"

MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN THE YEARS 1933-1945 CONCERNING THE "LAW FOR THE PREVENTION OF GENETICALLY DISEASED OFFSPRING, JULY 14, 1933"

By Gerhard Leuthold (Nürnberg, GFR). Doctoral thesis, School of Medicine, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg 1975. Paperback, 14.5 × 20 cm, 219 pp. Distributed by the University Department of Human Genetics and Anthropology, Erlangen-Nürnberg, GFR.

## MIKROZEPHALIE

## MICROCEPHALY

By H.F. Wismüller and G. Koch (Erlangen, GFR). Verlag Palm und Enke, Erlangen 1975. Vol. 5 in the series, *Bibliographica Genetica Medica*. Soft cover, 14.5 × 20 cm, 217 pp. Distributed by the University Institute of Human Genetics and Anthropology, Erlangen-Nürnberg, GFR.

ERBPATHOLOGISCHE BEFUNDE BEI INZESTKINDERN  
HEREDITARY PATHOLOGY IN INCEST CHILDREN

By W. Hammerschmidt (Nürnberg, GFR). Institute of Human Genetics and Anthropology, Erlangen-Nürnberg University, Erlangen, GFR. Soft cover, 14.5 × 20 cm, 90 pp.

## VON HIPPEL-LINDAU'SCHE KRANKHEIT

*Uebersicht über die humangenetischen Forschungsergebnisse der Jahre 1966-1972. Eine literarische Studie*

## VON HIPPEL-LINDAU'S DISEASE

*A Review of Human Genetics Studies in 1966-1972*

By T. Wimplinger (Erlangen, GFR). Institute of Human Genetics and Anthropology, Erlangen-Nürnberg University, Erlangen, GFR. Soft cover, 14.5 × 20 cm, 65 pp.

## AN ATLAS OF MAMMALIAN CHROMOSOMES

*Volume 9*

By T.C. Hsu (Houston, Texas, USA) and K. Benirschke (La Jolla, California, USA). Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York 1975. Loose-leaf boxed, 21.5 × 28 cm, 276 pp, 51 plates. Price: DM 48.40/US \$ 19.80.

## WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS IN ENGLISH

*An ELSE-Ciba Foundation Guide for Authors*

By M. O'Connor and F.P. Woodford (eds.). Sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences, the International Union of Geological Sciences and Editerra. Published by Elsevier-Excerpta Medica-North Holland, Amsterdam-Oxford-New York 1975. Hard cover, 16.5 × 24 cm, VIII + 108 pp, illustrated. Price: Dfl. 21.00 (about US \$ 7.95).

In recent years, inflation has come to be considered as a permanent, possibly a necessary characteristic of a modern, open-market economic system, until the combined effect of old with apparently new problems has produced a much too strong pressure on the system and caused a disruptive process, in which many factors, sometimes of opposite sign, have been at work. All productive sectors have been affected, but not all in the same way nor to the same extent. In a few instances, the crisis has been beneficial; in many more, positive factors have partly counteracted the negative ones.

The publishing sector appears to have only

suffered so far, at least in general terms. And this seems to be particularly true of scientific publishing. Here, the recent crisis has only come to stress a situation already characterized by steadily increasing publication costs matched only by steadily decreasing library and other purchases — an immediate result of the major cuts that in many national budgets, and namely in the U.S., have affected scientific research and educational activities.

All this has obviously produced a drastic increase in selling prices, and has at the same time demanded a serious effort toward the elaboration of new operative strategies, with a reduction of production and distribution costs.

Meanwhile, the market has been more and more characterized by interconnected aspects, such as the increasing amount of research workers (that are both the primary producers and the consumers of the scientific information), the increased production of information both in quantity and in rhythm, and the increased need for a fast, clear, and essential information.

The combination of these and other factors has therefore stressed the basic character of scientific publishing, which now more than ever has to provide high-quality and clear information in the most economic way (both in terms of production costs and of time needed for the reader to absorb the essential information).

This obviously requires a close cooperation between the various professionals involved in the publication process (author, editor, printer, etc.), and especially requires some knowledge of the printing process on the part of authors. In fact, the latter are scientists, who have been generally trained to do research and not necessarily to write about what they have done or plan to do. Only in recent years has scientific writing and editing started to be officially taught as part of the University curriculum; this is a highly felt need, especially in non-English-speaking countries, now that a serious effort is demanded on all scientific authors for a more and more generalized use of the English language.

Apposite manuals have been known for quite a long time now. Perhaps the most famous one,

the University of Chicago Press Manual of Style, was first published in 1906 and has since reached its twelfth edition (1969). Relatively widely known in the U.S., these manuals are, however, still poorly known in other countries, and especially so where they would be more needed, i.e., where people would consider them to be useless, where authors are more allergic to the very idea of an editorial screening of their papers, not only in terms of scientific contents, but of formal aspects as well.

*Writing Scientific Papers in English* is a modern and specialized guide for scientific authors produced through the joint effort of a number of organizations and individuals, and especially, the European Association of Editors of Biological Periodicals (ELSE), the Ciba Foundation, the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and the European Association of Earth-Science Editors (Editerra).

The guide consists of the following sections: (1) Planning (what to write and not to write, need for originality, need for early decision on target journal and use of apposite instructions); (2) Preparing (paper organization and outline, illustrative material organization and design, copyright); (3) Writing the first draft; (4) Revising (style, grammar, consistency, advice, etc.); (5) Refining; (6) Typing; (7) Submitting the final version; (8) Responding to the editor; (9) Correcting the proofs.

These sections are supplemented by five extremely useful appendixes: (1) Steps in writing a paper; (2) Units of measure and their abbreviations; (3) General abbreviations and symbols; (4) Abbreviations in biochemistry and taxonomy; (5) Expressions to avoid.

The book is highly recommended to any author in the biomedical field wishing to increase the quality and effectiveness of his scientific papers, while at the same time reducing their publication times.

Paolo Parisi

*University Department of Medical Genetics, and  
The Mendel Institute, Rome, Italy*