

ted by those qualified to interpret them only after a decision on recruitment has been made on non medical grounds. Employers may need guidelines concerning suitability for particular types of work, either from the patient's doctor, the occupational health service or from government bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive.<sup>18</sup> A small proportion of patients with epilepsy are severely disabled by frequent seizures or associated handicaps such as cognitive impairment and need sheltered employment. Employers should be encouraged to comply with established guidelines for the employment of disabled persons<sup>19</sup> to achieve greater success in this area.

The authors are grateful for all the help and cooperation given by Drs Ian Ruffett, Geoffrey Stout, Roger Thornham and their partners.

- 1 Editorial. Epilepsy and Employment. *BMJ* 1985;291:2-3.
- 2 Gordon N, Russell S. The problem of unemployment among epileptics. *J Ment Sci* 1958;104:103-14.
- 3 Crombie DL, Cross KW, Fry J, Pinsent RJFH, Watts CAH. A survey of the epilepsies in general practice. A report by the Research Committee of the College of General Practitioners. *BMJ* 1960;2:416-22.
- 4 Porter RJ. Epilepsy and employment. *Irish J Med Sci* 1968;1:83-90.
- 5 Pond DA, Bidwell BH. A survey of epilepsy in fourteen general practices. II. Social and Psychological aspects. *Epilepsia* 1959/60;1:285-99.
- 6 Scambler G, Hopkins A. Social class, epileptic activity, and disadvantage at work. *J Epidemiol Comm Health* 1980; 34:129-33.
- 7 Central Statistical Office. *Regional Trends*. London, HMSO;1987.
- 8 Commission on Classification and Terminology of the International League against Epilepsy. Proposed for revised clinical and electroencephalographic classification of epileptic seizures. *Epilepsia* 1981;22:489-501.
- 9 General Register Office. *Classification of occupations*. London, HMSO, 1966.
- 10 Central Statistical Office. *Social Trends 18*. London, HMSO;1988:201-2.
- 11 Sander JWAS, Shorvon SD. Incidence and prevalence studies in epilepsy and their methodological problems: a review. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1987;50:829-39.
- 12 Office of Health Economics. *Epilepsy in society*. London: Office of health economics, 1971.
- 13 Udel MM. The work performance of epileptics in industry. *Archives of Environmental Health* 1960;1:91-8.
- 14 Lione JG. Convulsive disorders in a working population. *J Occupat Med* 1961;3:369-73.
- 15 MacIntyre I. Epilepsy and employment. *Community Health* 1976;7:195-204.
- 16 Dasgupta AK, Saunders M, Dick DJ. Epilepsy in the British Steel Corporation: an evaluation of sickness, accident and work records. *BJIM* 1982;39:145-8.
- 17 Espir M, Floyd M. Epilepsy and recruitment. In: Edwards F, Espir M, Oxley J, eds. *Epilepsy and employment*. A medical symposium on current problems and best practices. London: RSM, 1986. (Int congress and symposium series, 86).
- 18 Craig A, Oxley J. Statutory and non-statutory barriers to the employment of people with epilepsy. In: Edwards F, Espir M, Oxley J, eds. *Epilepsy and employment*. A medical symposium on current problems and best practices. London: RSM, 1986. (Int congress and symposium series, 86).
- 19 Manpower Services Commission. Code of good practice on the employment of disabled people. MSC, Sheffield 1984.

---

## Neurological stamp

---

### Areataeus of Cappodocia (130-200)

Areataeus was the first to describe the aura and hallucinations preceding epilepsy and noted the tendency of seizures to recur once established. He differentiated nervous diseases and mental disorders, described hysteria, headache, mania and melancholia. The cerebral paralyses were closely studied and he observed that in a cerebral lesion the paralyses was crossed, but this was not the case with a spinal lesion. This was explained in terms of decussation of nerves.

This recent stamp (1990, Stanley Gibbons 249) was issued by Transkei as part of "The conquest of diabetes series." Areataeus gave an early account of the disorder.

L F HAAS

