

Introduction

THE limbic system plays a central role in the neuronal integration of emotion and behaviour. Based on animal experiments showing changes of oral behaviour as well as of aggressive and sexual behaviour following lesions of the limbic system parallels were sought in the human. Thus human analogues of the classical animal syndrome of Klüver and Bucy were recognized clinically and were shown to be associated with damage to limbic structures in individual cases. This has also been possible in cases of abnormal aggressive behaviour in the human.

It was the aim of the first International Workshop "Limbic System" to review current research data in the field of limbic structures from the aspects of basic research as well as of clinical findings in the human. Such a review also had to consider the question if and to what extent abnormal human behaviour—including also criminal behavioural deviation—can be correlated to lesions of the limbic system.

The present series of articles was taken from the papers given at the International Workshop on the limbic system held in Innsbruck—Igls/Austria from May 15th–18th of 1981 and is intended to give a representative review of the scientific material presented at the meeting.

Just as the meeting itself this publication is hoped to stimulate the contacts between basic research and clinical neuroscience to further elucidate the relations between behavioural disturbances and lesions of limbic structures.

Innsbruck, March 1983
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MEETING REPORT

International Workshop on the Limbic System

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