5. OTHER MALFORMATIONS OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (C)

The distinction between the B and C groups is artificial because most of the central nervous system derives from neural tube. Twenty-seven of the 30 reported cases which are classified in this group were of microcephalus and 13 of these cases were in the data from one centre; this suggests differing diagnostic criteria. The assessment of these cases of microcephalus presents many difficulties in that a small head is a relative term and true recessive microcephalus with the flat, sloping forehead is by no means easy to detect at birth. That few cases were of the latter type is suggested by the fact that none of the parents of the 27 cases were related. Microcephalus, or small head, has been mentioned also in 11 cases (5 males and 6 females) in the N group.

Other malformations of the central nervous system are seldom recognizable in early infancy and are only discovered at autopsy, e.g., congenital porencephalus. In surviving children, as, for example, in cases of absent corpus callosum or dysgenesis of the cerebellum, the diagnosis may only be made much later when mental or neurological defects are manifest.

From the above it will be clear that the data collected in this study are of minimal value. Anyone interested in the details may consult the Basic Tabulations by Centres booklet.