

February 25, 1971

Mrs. E. M. Stone
Seminars in Psychiatry
591 Morton Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02124

Dear Mrs. Stone,

I have read the comments on the ECT issue and would like to respond.

(1) Redundancies between Fink and [Schildkraut] are resolved.

(2) I agree that the relation between psychotherapy and ECT is a much neglected issue. Unfortunately, I know of no one who has made a serious contribution to this problem since the reports by Abse, Kahn and my co-workers, Jaffe - all in the 1950's. If you know of anyone who can contribute to this question, I would be delighted to invite such a section. I could ask one of my Hillside co-workers, Harold Escover or Joseph Jaffe to write such a section, but I know that they have no recent data.

(3) The single clinical section is for ECT; there is another for Indoklon. The special programs described will be covered in the Q & A, if not the clinical.

(4) My contribution will focus on these theoretic issues.

(5) There are no new data that we have found on drugs and ECT. I asked that the data be reviewed in the clinical section, and if not there, I will put in some questions in Q & A.

(6,7) I agree that these are critical questions. Data may be in clinical and memory section. If not, I'll try to get some answers in T & A.

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I heartily concur with the reviewer's last comment. In thinking about the questions about psychotherapy, combinations with drugs, overtreatment, abuse of ECT, etc., I think we might consider a section on "needed studies" or the questions that might be looked at critically. This is a section that could be written by someone with the various texts in hand, noting the omissions and needs. I can think of two men who could do this well - Milt Greenblatt and Jack Ewalt. May I have your advice?

Again, my thanks for the fine comments. I find the project most challenging and trust we can get a fine issue.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kt

cc: E. Hartmann