

F. Lelker

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Ms. Maya Pines
4724 32nd Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Ms. Pines,

Thank you for alerting me to the latest issue of Saturday Review, and to the fine article that you wrote. It does capture the excitement of our work. ORG 2766, the long acting peptide, will be in clinical trial in Europe and the U. S. this winter. It is going through human toxicology trials now. Among the early tests in the U. S. will be assays of its effects on the EEG and on memory function, and in elderly patients. The studies of ACTH 4-10 in the elderly are in progress now at New York Medical College and New York University, and soon will also be at the Hillside Hospital in New York.

Your article was well written and described the state of the art well. Perhaps, among your other writing assignments, you may wish to tackle another interesting story.

The human EEG has been studied since its first published report by Hans Berger in 1929. During these 45 years, there have been many applications, including some of those described in the Saturday Review. One interesting development which is not widely known is the use of EEG methods to find new drugs for clinical psychiatry. Since the first descriptions of modern psychoactive drugs in the early 1950's, most compounds developed by industry are based on their similarity to an established compound, or to their effects on animal assay systems. The first methods produce "me, too" drugs; the latter are often inaccurate, for some compounds that are psychoactive do not satisfy the animal assay criteria, and some compounds that meet assay requirements are clinically useless. The quantitative EEG analysis has been successful in providing a classification of psychoactive drugs that is based on neurophysiologic, not on chemical criteria; and new psychoactive compounds have been found by these methods.

Ms. Maya Pines

8/4/75

EEG methods have also been extended to estimates of the half life and bioavailability of drugs. This latter use has become important as the FDA has demanded that drugs from different manufacturers meet stringent standards of safety, purity, and availability to the patient.

These studies show an intimate relation between changes in brain function and behavior in man. Some physiologists describe the electrical activity of the brain as a 'metabolite' of brain function, reflecting its underlying activity.

The quantitative analysis of EEG is distinctly different from the clinical analysis of EEG as is ordinarily done by neurologists. It depends on careful control of the setting of the experiment, and measurements of the EEG, using digital computer analytic methods. A review of these developments would be timely, for it will provide the lay reader with another view of brain function to complement his information of depth electrodes, chemtrodes, biofeedback, and sleep research.

I am enclosing two reprints describing this work, one for 1969, and one for 1974, that may give you a better idea of this topic.

Again, my congratulations on a fine report. Perhaps we will have an opportunity to meet to discuss this interesting project.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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Encs.