

September 13, 1993

Dr. B. Ver^Wvey
Ziekenhuis Rijnstate
Postbus 9555; 6800 TA Arnhem
The Netherlands

Dear Dr. Vervey,

What a pleasure to receive such a happy follow-up on your case of lethal catatonia. I was happy to be of help, and am doubly delighted that the results were so welcome and that you will be writing it up. Yes, I would very much like to read the report when it is published, but you could send me a preprint before publication if that is delayed.

There is increased interest in catatonia in the U.S. and Canada, and your experience would be of interest to this group of investigators.

With regard to electro-acupuncture, I know of no follow-up reports. Surely, none have been presented in the Western literature. A few years ago, Dr. Xue wrote that he was coming to the U.S. and I tried to arrange a meeting but that fell through. I have kept his papers in a travel folder in my file, hoping to visit China, but have not done so.

What is clearly needed is for a Western trained psychiatrist, with some skills in ECT, to observe the procedures in China and assess whether actual grand mal seizures occur; their characteristics; a measure of the cognitive effects immediately after a seizure and one-day and one week after a series of treatments; and EEG measures during the seizure and 24 hours after 6 ECT or the end of a series. Such information will provide an impetus to replication in the West.

Have a good trip to the U.S. and keep up the good work. My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
and Neurology