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January 29, 1964

Fritz A. Freyhan, M. D.
4740 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Fritz:

The latest issue of "Comprehensive Psychiatry" arrived on my desk a few hours ago, and I have just completed reading it from cover to cover. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the presentations in this volume, and especially on the content and clarity of your introduction. The problems you raised are those that have been troubling George Ulett and myself for the past two years in St. Louis. The issues are clear, but the resolution is most difficult.

While I was in New York, the psychiatric problems were those of a private hospital. Since working in St. Louis, I have come to see the broader issues reflected in the State Hospital, the acute treatment center and the many varieties of private practice. The impetus given by the National Mental Health Bills and the support which the National Institutes of Health have given psychiatry in the past decade may do much to change these patterns, but it is clear that so long as the control of these funds and the training model are those of the private practitioner, the university clinic and the child guidance and mental hygiene clinics, the operations appear doomed to failure in the next decade.

I do hope that your journal is read by the people who make the policies and set the financial patterns in each of the states and in Washington. Again, my congratulations on a fine collection of reports and especially your comments.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.

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