

September 15, 1965

Dr. John I. Nurnberger, Chairman
Committee on Program
Society of Biological Psychiatry
Indiana University Medical Center
1100 West Michigan
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear John:

It seems only yesterday that we planned the 1965 program of the Society, and I do not know of any new orientations or topics that would make this forthcoming meeting sufficiently unique. However, three subjects which are of particular public health interest today come to mind.

There has been considerable study of the use of LSD in the treatment of alcoholics and more recently in patients who are in terminal stages of illness. It seems that a symposium on the therapeutic roles of LSD by next year might present data which would complement the initial reports which have appeared in the literature.

Without trying to emphasize psychotropic drugs, the past six months have, however, brought forth much discussion concerning the toxicity of these compounds. There are a number of good reviews which have appeared but more important, are the individual case reports which have appeared recently.

A third subject which is of interest to many members of this Society is the application of digital computer techniques to our research programs. Much of the enthusiasm generated three years ago seems to have waned, leaving behind an estimate of applications which may be very helpful in the analysis of physiological signals, the classification of subpopulations, and the evaluations of behavioral change. At the last meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, a number of papers were presented in this area, but I believe that the subject is sufficiently alive to warrant emphasis in this program.

I have never heard Dr. Penrose speak and I would be very pleased to subscribe to his invitation.

I regret that these comments are not more helpful, but they are the subjects which are of interest to us and I believe of considerable research study today.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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