

19 September 1971

A. Arthur Sugarman, M.B.
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Dear Art,

It has been a long time since we chatted about ECDEU affairs, or about stocks, and I was reminded of this in reading your recent report on prazepam in narcotic addicts in the Journal of Clinical Pharmacology. I found your report interesting for it confirmed some of our observations with tybamate in a similar group of subjects. We had tried to maintain patients on tybamate during the post-drug withdrawal period, in the hope that tybamate would 'block' the craving for opiates and reduce recidivism.

Unfortunately, our patients liked tybamate itself, particularly when combined with alcohol. They reported that small doses of tybamate and small doses of alcohol acted synergistically to give them a cheap 'high'.

So far, there seems to be little more that we can do for the opiate dependent but reduce their symptoms during withdrawal, or maintain them on methadone indefinitely. We still believe that our work with the antagonists show these drugs to be most useful, but we have had difficulty in convincing the authorities that more efforts should be spent in this area.

My best regards, and my best wishes for a happy new year.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.