

March 13, 1989

Lothar Kalinowsky, M.D.
Klinik Dr. Dohrn
Driesenstr. 10
8182 Bad Wiessee am Tegernsee
West Germany

Dear Lothar and Hilda,

Thank you for your kind note about the early days at the Psychiatric Institute. I do not know as yet how I will use it, but something will come up.

The APPA held a fine meeting earlier this month, with much emphasis on the anatomy of the brain as the basis for mental disorders. Some of the speakers jumped from animals to man in a truly fantastic fashion. I am still not comfortable with the strong emphasis on neuroscience which now dominates psychiatry (especially in my department); it reminds me of the excesses of the psychoanalytic teaching which dominated my training and my years at Hillside Hospital. Too much of a good thing is still likely to unsettle one's stomach.

Tony O'Connell invited the associate editors of COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHIATRY to lunch and the discussion was interesting. The APPA is committed to publishing the papers of the annual meetings in separate volumes. These have poor sales, are not indexed in the national indices, and the published articles tend to get lost. We discussed the possibility of issuing a supplement to the journal for the articles, as well as asking the membership to subscribe to the journal as part of their annual dues. Both ideas were rejected by the officers -- largely, I believe, because they want to have a 'book' edited by them. Also the APPA officers do not know Tony and probably would want to name one of their own to be editor. So, as each perceived the suggestions as threats, they were scuttled at its inception.

The first issue of CONVULSIVE THERAPY for 1989 was edited by Richard Abrams and is dedicated to "ECT in the High-Risk Patient". It is a special, larger issue which is very well done and it should be very helpful for teaching in the next few years. As I do not know whether your copy will be sent to you, I am enclosing one for your use.

My best regards and wishes for continued improvement.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

January 31, 1989

Lothar Kalinowsky, M.D.
Klinik Dr. Dohrn
Bad Wiessee am Tegernsee
West Germany

Dear Lothar and Hilda,

Thank you for your very nice card, and the news that the Klinik is a fine one. I am delighted.

The next issue of CONVULSIVE THERAPY is now complete; it is dedicated to papers and reviews of the medical aspects of ECT. Dick Abrams has put it together, and is the issue editor. It will be put out as a regular issue of the journal, but also reprinted, supported by Dick's company, and distributed at the APA meeting in San Francisco. There will also be another special issue devoted to the mode of action of ECT, and this one is being put together by Harold Sackeim for later this year.

The American Medical Association has formally endorsed the use of ECT. We will print the resolution but it already has been discussed in the APA News. It is a good sign of the progress of ECT.

Harold Sackeim told me that the Psychiatric Institute is planning a special meeting in September honoring the 50th anniversary of the first use of ECT at the Institute. It would be a timely topic to cover in our News & Notes section. What was it like in the early days at the Institute? In the early days in New York? I have the notes from the Abrams interview with you. Could you supplement these? Is there anyone else that I could interview to report the events of that period? I would be glad to put something together for your approval. Think on it; any notes or recollections would be most helpful.

That is all for now. My best regards and wishes for continued improvement.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry