

November 24, 1984

David B. Friedman, M.D.
20 Park Avenue
New York City 10016

Dear David,

What a lovely note; my thanks for your kind comments. There are days when the work seems so much of the same, that I wonder why I don't retire and follow the sun. But then there are notes like yours and all the work seems worthwhile again.

My connection with ECT is largely the accident of my residency experience at Hillside, where I was asked to take over the unit since I had some years experience in neurology at Bellevue at the time I came to Hillside. It also helped that other residents were disinterested and I was willing. But the experience has been productive. My book in 1979 was well received (it is out-of-print) and the publisher asked me this summer whether I would edit a new journal. I agreed to work on CONVULSIVE THERAPY -- a new quarterly journal that you should see more of in the late spring. It aims to stimulate more research into ECT with the aim of improving the training and treatment procedures first, but ultimately to finding a better treatment for major depressive disorders. If you liked the parts of the Meduna history which related to his autobiography, I decided (once I had the authority) to publish the whole autobiography in a few issues of CONVULSIVE THERAPY. I hope you will find the sections as interesting as I did.

My family is maturing in fine style. My son is a geologist at Arizona State University, has his own home, and a 'significant other'. My older daughter has just completed her doctorate at Duke in cellular biology and is a post-doc at Yale. The youngest has completed her M.S. at Florida in Gainesville and is on her way to a doctorate in zoology-- chiefly the predation of insects by birds. My work at Stony Brook is rewarding, although our resident candidates are a rather sorry lot and much of my time seems wasted. But there is a continuing research program and the medical students are brighter each year. It is a joy to teach them.

So, my thanks for your kind comments. I trust all is well with you and your family. My best wishes for happy holidays and a healthy 1985.

Sincerely yours,