

Thanks for the reprint; it was helpful.

F. Sellen
1978

My best regards. (I hope we'll meet at Key Biscayne

at least.)

March 9, 1978

Sincerely yours,
George Simpson, M.D.
Metropolitan State Hospital
Norwalk, California 90650

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Dear George,

You must be pleased to have left the wintry East for the sunny West before this winter! We have had a hard time of it, the snow is still about two feet high on my lawn and the passage for my car looks like a trench from the first World War.

It was good of you to write. I was sorry to have missed the session in Louisville but I thought that Hy's solution was worthy of a trial and I am glad that it went well. The meeting in New Orleans was a good one, if late in coming. I suggested it about four years ago, and now that the Task Force of the APA has done all the work, it was useful to bring some of the clinicians together and review the data. It became clear as the days wore on that there is much that is known by the researchers about ECT, but that little of the information has percolated through to the practitioners or to the University professors who have interests outside of clinical studies. Papers by Salzman, Davis, Frankel, and Squire were particularly outstanding. Some of the analyses were newly done and commendable. All in all, I think the meeting report will be complementary to the APA Task Force report and my own volume on ECT, both of which will appear this year.

As to Grimm, he is one of the many over-emotional pseudo-scientists who have an opinion based on limited data, and then re-interpret the findings of others to suit their preconceived notions. If that is too strong, it does reflect my opinion. He has made a big deal of the concept of kindling, based on animal data, and then alleged that the same phenomenon occurs in ECT. It does not since the parameters of ECT are distinctly different, as I noted in my report to the APPA and published in the volume edited by Shagass, Gershon and Friedhoff, on "Psychopathology and Brain Dysfunction". You have a better scientist at LaJolla, Larry Squire, whose data should be used in preference to the opinions of Grimm.

Not only did you leave at the right time for the winter, but the DMH is undergoing re-organization again; Donald Oken has been around at the Governor's request to find out why we do so much research and to find all the 'fat' in the research budget; and we have already been told that the 1978-79 budget will have a 17.8% reduction across the board. Do you know of a good job for a middle-aged psychiatrist in sunny Cal?

Handwritten scribble

Thanks for the reprint; it was helpful.

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March 9, 1978

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Metropolitan State Hospital
Newark, California 90050

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