

June 15, 1972

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Dear John:

I have read your letter, "*Cholinergic Reversal of Manic Symptoms*" in the Lancet of June 3 with much interest. The role of cholinergic mechanisms in depressive states and their treatment has been ignored for too long, and such data as you present is most helpful. Some years ago, we reviewed the role of cholinergic mechanisms in the relief of depression by ECT. We were intrigued by the ability of anticholinergics (e.g., benactyzine, diethazine, Ditran) to reverse ECT induced improvement (and such physiological indices as the EEG) and to exaggerate depressive states. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a reprint summarizing those studies, as complementary to your own.

But I am writing because I am particularly interested in your comment, "... that marihuana-induced euphoria and talkativeness can be converted to a severe depressive syndrome by physostigmine". I do not recall these data at the APPA meeting, and I am writing to ask if a copy of that report can be made available to us. The method of analysis of drug effects by interactions with known pharmacologic agents is one that we have just begun to apply to our studies of cannabis.

Many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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