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Dear Al:

Thank you very much for your invitation to collaborate in the writing of a new textbook, the Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry. While I would be pleased to describe the "organic treatment of schizophrenia," I wonder if you would accept a revision of the focus. The phrase, "organic treatment of schizophrenia" appears to be both limited and prejudicial to the therapeutic models which I espouse. There is no "organic treatment of schizophrenia" since we have very little evidence regarding a specific etiological agent in these diseases. Perhaps a title "Physiodynamic Treatment of Psychosis" will permit a more general statement of both the somatic features of treatment (including convulsive therapies, drug therapies, insulin coma, and leucotomy) as combined with a variety of psychotherapies. I also prefer the phrase "severe mentally ill" or "severe psychoses" since there is no evidence that these treatments are specific for the schizophrenias.

I am expressing these thoughts preparatory to calling you later this week to discuss this fully. This is an interesting venture, and I look forward to participating in it.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Max Fink  
Professor of Psychiatry

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