

74SB-095SB

March 27, 1974

Dr. D. P. Bobon  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Liege Medical School  
Rue St. Laurent, 58, B4000  
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Dear Dr. Bobon:

I read your article on the "Classifications and Terminology of Psychotropic Drugs" in the January 1973 issue of *Pharmako-psychiatrie*, with a great deal of interest. I think your paper highlights the poverty of the descriptive nosologies. That it has been necessary for so many authors to develop so many descriptive terms, for so many syndromes, reflects the lack of merit of a wholly phenomenological approach. I am writing because I was disappointed that you, who have had experience with electropsychological measures, made so little of them. It seems to me that psychoactive drugs do affect behavior by changing brain function. Brain function measures are poor, with the best being EEG. As poor as EEG measures are, however, they still provide the best classification of psychoactive drugs and a reasonable approach to understanding treatment failures. I am reminded of the saying, "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is King, - for this is the way I see EEG classifications.

I know that you are now doing EEG studies and I would hope that you would come to use these measures for classification, after demonstrating so well that the descriptive terminology of the first twenty years is so confusing.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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