

F. Peters

December 2, 1975

Lothar Kalinowsky, M.D.  
115 E. 82nd Street  
New York City

Dear Lothar,

I read, with much interest, your note about the Congress of Psychiatric Surgery, as published in *Psychiatric News*, and wondered about the lack of interest that you cite. I wonder if the political factor you cite is indeed as strong as suggested. I would look to ourselves, for I find that our peers, particularly those in the Society of Biological Psychiatry, are as smug and as disinterested in clinical issues as the rest of the APA. Another factor may be the lack of publicity for the Congress, for I cannot recall seeing an invitation.

One response that may be helpful is for the secretary for the next Congress to send announcements to the mailing lists of the former Electroshock Research Association, EPRA, the Society of Biological Psychiatry, and the American Psychopathological Association.

Another response, if you believe that the Society of Biological Psychiatry, in swallowing the Electroshock, CO<sub>2</sub>, and Insulin groups, should be interested, is to act to lead that organization along clinical lines. I have been dissatisfied with the programs of SBP, and I discussed this with Charles Shagass a few years ago when he was on his way up in the Society. He seemed to listen, (with one ear) in appointing various committees last year. We did have a clinical group for the Program Committee this last year. He also appointed a Nominating Committee of Leo Alexander, A. Friedhoff, and T. Itil. These men, however, under the leadership of Leo Alexander, elected chemists to the leadership -- and with the aged hands of Wortis, Himwich, Bennett, and Thompson still very much active, there is little hope for a change in the next few years. Perhaps, in your position as a statesman of the Society, with Heath, Alexander, Nurnberger as friends, you could still see that young men, with clinical interest, are appointed to leadership roles, especially the journal and the Program Committee. Then the Society could play a clinical role, as it promised to play when it absorbed the clinical societies, and psychosurgery could get a reasonable hearing.

Lothar Kalinowsky, M.D.

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(One could consider the development of another national organization on the somatic therapies along the lines suggested by Len Cammer. This is a formidable task, and one that would be conflicted at the outset because of the different constituencies -- the academicians, clinicians, and the hospital therapist with little academic interest.)

Another suggestion: would you offer a panel on psychosurgery for the next meeting's program? It may not be too late.

Perhaps some of these actions would serve to alert members of our organizations to the next meeting of the Congress of Psychiatric Surgery. At the least, perhaps this note will remind you to add my name to the mailing list.

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/mr

P.S. - Your letter on the Orient Express was stimulating -- I've never been on it, but perhaps we could try a section in one of our trips to Greece and Turkey.