

November 4, 1964

Dr. Henry Pechstein, Editor
Nassau D. B. Newsletter
230 Hilton Avenue
Hempstead, New York

Dear Henry:

It was indeed a pleasure to receive your letter and I regret very much if I have missed any copies of the Newsletter. My address is:

Missouri Institute of Psychiatry
5400 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

It has been two years since I left Nassau county, and only recently have the burdens of administration lightened sufficiently to permit me the luxuries of looking about and entertaining individual research. I was given 100,000 square feet of space in a new building, a small budget, and the total support of the division director. With this, he hoped to establish a major research and training center in the midwest. During these two years, the staff has grown so that now we have nine scientists, twenty technical personnel and a staff of eighty to care for a patient population of one-hundred twenty in our own wards. The State budgets, inadequate as they were at the beginning, have been supplemented by Public Health service funds so that the Institution is now functioning on an annual basis of a half million dollars. Most important, we have begun to make observations which my associated and I think sufficiently important to present to national and international meetings.

It has been an exciting two years, and many of the things which I wanted at Hillside I have been able to obtain here. We have our patient populations, and the privilege of admitting patients from anywhere in the State. The wards are new, air-conditioned and the rooms are spacious. We have no problem of over-crowding, since admission is by

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invitation only. Since ^{dedication}admission, we have established laboratories in electroencephalography, experimental neurophysiology, pharmacology and experimental psychology. We have our own computer center and medical library. Under construction is an animal facility, and this unit has received support from the Federal Government. With luck, it will be available on March 1, 1965.

There have been some problems in the relationship between the Institute and the local Universities. The Institute is the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Missouri in St. Louis, effective this month. The University has a medical school in Columbia, which is in the center of the state. The Curators contemplate the development of a new medical school in St. Louis by the end of this decade, and are already planning various departments. This Institute is now the first department of the new medical school.

When I came to St. Louis, I found no problem in the relation between clinical psychology and psychiatry. Clinical psychologists, with rare exception, are affiliated with the Universities and if they practice, do so either in conjunction with psychiatrists or to a limited extent. Only in the last six months has the problem been raised when the Missouri Psychological Association has broached the possibility of certification for psychologists in this state. The city of St. Louis has two medical schools and in addition there is a psychoanalytic foundation. This is unaffiliated with either school but provides some teaching for the students of both. It is a small group and does not carry the weight or force, that similar bodies do in New York. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why clinical psychology has not established a major foothold.

I agree with you that Nassau needs a medical school. If my figures are correct, Nassau county has almost two million inhabitants. Missouri, with four million has three medical schools and there are two on the planning board. I recently visited the medical school in New Mexico, and their school services a state with a population less than half of Nassau county. If the politicians in Albany and in the county would come to agree, I think it would be very important to have a medical school in Nassau, and in Suffolk

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These would do more, perhaps, than another school in Manhattan Island.

I miss all my friends back East very much and on the few occasions that I have come to the city, I have found meeting with them a pleasant experience. Given the opportunity, I would very much enjoy attending another meeting of the Nassau D.B. Please extend my best regards to all my many friends. Congratulations on your appointment as Editor. I hope you enjoy the position as much as I did.

My best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Director

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