

May 2, 1991

Philip Slavney, M.D.
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600 N. Wolfe Street
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Dear Philip,

It was kind of you to recommend **The Life and Work of Josef Breuer**. It was difficult to find, but I am delighted that I finally got to read it. The picture of Viennese medicine at the turn of the century is much less idyllic than the analysts portrayed it a few decades ago (when I sat at the feet of the analysts). I appreciated the notes on Anna O., particularly Breuer's case history. The emphasis on opioids (my own) is less clear in this text, albeit still present in sufficient detail not to vitiate my argument that dependence was a feature of her 'dis-ease' and many and prolonged hospitalizations. In my defense I see in these notes, and in some others from that period, a reminder of our present attitude to anxiolytics and hypnotics. Many patients are admitted or referred to us with detailed notes about their use of TCA, MAOI, anti-psychotics, lithium, carbamazepine, alcohol, and cocaine, and only passing reference to the prescribed alprazolam and flurazepam.

Andy and Laura are doing well. They proposed a 'small study' of ECS as a model of maintenance ECT which we are able to fund from a grateful family. The parents are willing to support this research even though they admit that our course of ECT for their daughter gave her little relief. Andy also has become interested in a high risk medically ill patient with a very recent repaired aortic aneurysm who was successfully treated with ECT.

Thank you again for thinking of me. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Editor