

J: Letters  
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January 7, 1965

Dr. J. W. T. Redfearn  
110 Harley St., W. 1  
London, England

Dear Dr. Redfearn:

Your recent series of three reports concerning the mental changes resulting from small direct currents applied in psychiatric patients is of considerable interest to me. In studies of the convulsive therapy process, undertaken some years ago, we demonstrated to our satisfaction that sub-convulsive treatments were decidedly inferior in therapeutic efficacy in contrast to convulsive treatment in a mixed group of depressive and schizophrenic subjects. In studying the neurophysiological concomitance of this treatment, we found that changes in the resting electroencephalogram in the direction of high voltage, slow wave activity was seen in the convulsive therapy subjects only. We concluded that changes in brain function (of which the electroencephalogram was a reflection) were a necessary, but not sufficient condition for behavioral improvement in the convulsive therapy process.

In your three reports in the British Journal of Psychiatry of November, 1964, the suggestion is made that the polarization technic may have neurophysiological effects. However, there is no evidence presented for such changes in these subjects. I am writing to inquire whether electroencephalograms were taken at intervals during the treatment period in these subjects, and if so what the extent of changes may have been.

Your reports are most interesting and I would be pleased to receive a set of reprints.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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