

August 1, 1968

Dr. Clinton Brown
Department of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Science
Johns Hopkins University School
of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Dr. Brown:

I have recently reviewed the available methods for quantifying sleep EEG data and find the literature sparse and unsatisfactory. While many observers have recommended various computer methods for the automatic analysis of a sleep record, these are generally very expensive or insufficient. At the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Ardie Lubin presented some data from his program in San Diego based on power spectral density analysis.

My former associates, Itil and Shapiro, have written a report on "sleep prints" based on period analysis.

Agnew, Parker, Webb and Williams have used amplitude analysis for the classification of sleep EEG.

I am confident that you know of others and I am writing to suggest that the Program Committee consider the possibility of inviting these workers (and others) to analyze a tape which can be sent to each of them and to provide them with an opportunity to describe their methods, ability to discriminate, expense, etc.

Such an opportunity would be a great help in clarifying some of the problems facing investigators seeking better methods of quantification. My associates and I will be glad to do what we can to make such a symposium a success.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: T. M. Itil, M.D.