

September 19, 1979

Leopold Bellak, M.D.
Bronx Municipal Hospital Center
Bronx, New York

Dear Leo,

Thank you for your informative letter of September 14. I checked my file, and find that the report I submitted as a review of the role of ECT in schizophrenia is dated July 13, 1977. Since that time, there have been some additional publications, some noted "in press" have been published, and what is more important, the attitude to ECT in schizophrenia has crystallized-- in part, because of the publications, and in part because of a meeting sponsored by NIMH in February, 1978.

The draft will need editing and revising. Some can be done in galley, and I do hope that such an opportunity will be given us. Otherwise, I regret to say, the publication will be outdated before it appears in print.

Let me know how we can rectify this problem.

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

August 17, 1977

Leopold Bellak, M.D.
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, New York

Dear Leo,

Thank you for your comments on the report, "EST and Other Somatic Therapies in Schizophrenia".

The suggestion regarding page 1, is good. Would the following be better: "When penicillin therapy successfully replaced fever therapy for neurosyphilis, populations of misdiagnosed 'schizophrenics' disappeared". This suggestion comes from my experience at Bellevue. I came to learn about neurosyphilis and psychosis in 1944-46, just when one treatment was replacing another. Fever therapy was used in patients where syphilis was presumed, even if the findings were unclear (as was true for the use of ECT). I am only trying to suggest that diagnosis is a difficult art, and that as new modalities are developed, we change our criteria of diagnosis. If the sentence offends, delete it.

Page 11: "Whether asuch a sanguine therapeutic outlook is justified" is an improvement.

Page 15: "These are a few questions posed by the EST data; perhaps it is time to reassess the usefulness of EST in schizophrenia." This sentence removes the offending phrases.

Page 2: The criticism of NIMH is meant to stay. I am chagrined that the millions of dollars spent by the schizophrenia research branch are often wasted on psychosocial approaches for a syndrome whose principal characteristics are as clear as a brain disorder as are the characteristics of brain tumors and epilepsy. The discussion of biological research is largely biochemical and pharmacological, usually of a limited kind. I mean to be upset by the absence of supported research in therapies of schizophrenia. I have listened to Loren Mosher and his social views and I find them particularly weak. Unless you insist that the paragraph be deleted for political reasons (very sad, if you do) I would prefer that it remain on page 2. It states a fact which I believe to be accurate and it is not out of place.

My thanks for your critique. Are there any additions you would suggest ?

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.

July 16, 1977

Dr. Leopold Bellak
Bronx Municipal Hospital
Bronx, New York 10461

Dear Leo,

Enclosed are two copies of the report, "EST and Other Spmatic Therapies in Schizophrenia" for the next volume in the reviews of schizophrenia.

The question of 'royalties' was raised not for the amounts involved, which have been ridiculously small and quite unimportant in previous ventures, but to spell out the usual questions of reprints, author's reductions in additional volumes purchased, and complimentary copies of the volume. These are quite customary, and it is unusual to carry out a venture without the usual details written. For example, as a gentlemen, I know that you will supply each author with a ~~free~~ copy of the final volume and 100 reprints of the chapter. Yes ? And that additional copies of the book can be obtained from the publisher at a 30% discount ? Yes ? And that royalties will be given to the editor's favorite charity. Yes ? (Hopefully, the royalties do not go to the publisher who is making too much already.)

In any case, I assume the above 'usual' conditions apply. No, I do not need any subvention for the costs of the article. Yes, you may have it for your volume as a gift.

I look forward to seeing the whole; I enjoyed working on this part.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

August 3, 1978

Leopold Bellak, M.D.
22 Rockwood Drive
Larchmont, N. Y. 10538

Dear Leo:

Enclosed are some notes as you requested to update my report in your forthcoming volume on schizophrenia. I trust these additions are useful.

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:bc
Encl.