

15 October 1973

MEMORANDUM

To: Stanley F. Yolles, M.D.

From: Max Fink, M.D. *MF*

Subject: Tachistoscope, CFF, and Event Control System

The tachistoscope and CFF are devices that present visual stimuli under rigorous control of input variables. This permits the experimenter to measure accurately the state of vigilance of a subject and the level of brain function performance. Changes in these measures are direct indices of organic mental states and the effects of drugs and psychiatric treatments. They are also being applied as a measure of the changes produced by the schizophrenic process. For experimental studies by medical students and fellows, these devices are invaluable both as research and as teaching tools.

The Event Control System permits the researcher to present stimuli (e.g., through the tachistoscope or CFF) with rigorous control of duration and sequence factors, thus permitting careful assessment of changes in vigilance, brain function, and the long-term effects of psychosis. This system is also applicable to the projected studies of conditioning in our expanded narcotic addiction research program.

MF/cis