

August 28, 1963

Dr. Anselm Schurgast
130 East Main Street
Meriden, Connecticut

Dear Anse:

It was a great surprise to get your letter. If my calculations are correct, it has been sixteen years since we first talked about psychiatry. In the last ten, devoted as they were to Hillside Hospital, I found a lot of pleasure in developing a research program. Despite the psychological framework of the hospital, more than one-half the patients were treated with psychotropic drugs, electro convulsive therapy and insulin, and so I was able to find much that interested me. Since coming to Missouri, the biggest difference is in the change in population. Psychiatric patients who are in State hospitals are in terrible shape. They consist of treatment failures but also a large number are social outcasts. For this group there is little that can be done medically. So, as I walk through these wards and struggle problems of large numbers of patients and few staff, and recognize the maldistribution that exists, some of the adolescence fury and protest, which were so prominent when we were together, seems to rise again. It was for this reason that I was very pleased to read your note regarding a psychiatric hospital. I do hope you are successful in getting it started and can demonstrate the utility of your methods. Anything that can prevent the prolonged hospitalization of patients, would be welcome at this point.

Since moving to St. Louis, my family has been able to make a satisfactory adjustment. My son, who is now 12, has many friends and seems to have taken up both his educational and his social life where he left off in New York. I have two daughters, age 7 and 5, and, of course, their adjustment was most easy.

My many thanks for your kind wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Director

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