

August 5, 1968

Dr. McKeen Cattell
Department of Pharmacology
Cornell University Medical College
1300 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Cattell:

I have read and re-read the enclosed article by Sugerman and Hyams, and find it too complex and unfocussed to be suitable for publication in its present form.

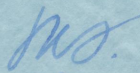
The authors approach two separate issues - a new mathematical approach to the analysis of the integrated amplitude EEG, and the effects of a novel agent, adrenochrome semicarbazone. The evaluation of this compound is confused by the authors' interest in the adrenochrome theory of schizophrenia and their observations that the integrated EEG of schizophrenics is more like the LSD reaction than like normal EEG.

The article lacks clarity in the mathematics and only with much effort could I follow the text. The results presented are only the mathematical data, but the discussion is focussed on the significance of the data for chronic schizophrenia. The authors suggest that they have additional normal data (to be published elsewhere) and use it in their argument, but we do not have the opportunity to examine the data to learn its relevance to a comparison with chronic schizophrenia (i.e., age, social class, diet, previous drug history, educational level, etc. of the normal population).

Finally, the authors fail to present any simple description of the effects of the drug on the EEG. In view of the importance of EEG changes for the effects of psychoactive drugs, it is a serious omission to find no simple quantitative description of pattern and frequency effects, activation effects, etc. in an article entitled as this one is.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Sincerely yours,



Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp