

F. Sellen

October 19, 1977

Mr. Robert N. Ubell
New York Academy of Sciences
Two East 63 Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Ubell,

Your letter regarding the presentations at the World Congress of Psychiatry was welcome. I must admit, however, that I did not attend the Congress, having been invited to give an address on the same subject at the International Congress on EEG in Amsterdam at the same time. I enclose a copy of the paper presented at that meeting for your information. The report is technical, and I believe that a more general version can be written for The Sciences. There are figures of the actual EEG records, of the changes associated with changing blood levels, as well as the type of tables described in this report which can be prepared for you. Also, it would be useful to present these techniques in the context of clinical electroencephalography. We use the same instruments (the EEG) but we do not assess the paper record; rather we focus on the mathematical data which is provided by the digital computer data reduction system.

A further note could be added on the relations of these methods to the parallel studies of the averaged evoked response, the sleep EEG and the contingent negative variation-- data which I elected not to present in this report.

Let me take this opportunity to suggest another topic that may interest you as well. In 1976, the Academy sponsored a conference on Chronic Cannabis Use, published as vol 282. Since then, the Greek material has been published (Hashish- Studies of Long-Term Use, New York, Raven Press) and the data from the Costa Rica study have been submitted to the same press. The Jamaica data was published a few years ago (Ganja in Jamaica). Mouton Press, Paris). It seems to me that these studies are remarkably consistent in failing to find evidence of long term damage after the use of potent materials. Perhaps ~~here~~ there is a story in it for The Sciences.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry