

May 15, 1967

Dr. Richard Abrams
104 Childress
Shepherd AFB, Texas

Dear Dr. Abrams:

I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter of April 14, but preparations for the APA occupied most of my time. I have read your paper with interest and have taken the liberty of marking it with the questions that occurred to me as I read the text. I think it is sufficiently clear, however, it should be submitted for publication.

You are correct that the changes induced in unilateral and bilateral ECT were significant in their changes in the Hamilton Rating Scale. The data for the Beckomberg Scale were too scant to be useful.

I have had the opportunity to visit Dr. Blachly and found that his technique, which permits three to six treatments to be given in one morning, is probably a useful method to be tried. He suggests that the differences between his observations and those of others is related to the degree of oxygenation. I have already spoken to Dr. Kalinowsky and perhaps we will be able to undertake such a study, following his line of investigation, if we can obtain the services of an experienced anaesthetist. Such a study is of special interest today since the in-patient services are undertaking a special study of the rapid treatment of all admissions to the service. They are particularly interested in any device that may shorten the treatment period and such a method as Dr. Blachly suggests fits well with our present needs.

It would be quite helpful if you could visit during the early part of July, as I think I will be in New York and we can plan the study more definitively.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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