

21 December 1973

Fritz A. Freyhan, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief
Comprehensive Psychiatry
2015 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Fritz:

I have read the article by Strauss, et al., "Inpatient Alcoholics: Characteristics and Needs," with interest. While the findings seem supportive of prevalent teachings and add little that is new, I believe the presentation is sufficiently well documented to indicate the special risks to which members of some subcultures are prone. The need for additional attention by psychiatrists to the ubiquitous problems of alcoholism is well represented. The article is well written, clear, and deserves publication.

I have two comments. The paper lacks a discussion of the work done by others and the citations seem outdated. Unfortunately, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the literature to define specific omissions but a question to the authors may set their minds working.

Secondly, on Page 8 the authors cite the APA for not attending to alcoholism. I do not believe this criticism is warranted. The program reflects what interests psychiatrists in any year and a less ad hominem argument is to be wished for. Perhaps they could survey the number of papers sent to a group of representative psychiatric societies (Society for Biological Psychiatry, Ortho, American Psychological Association, etc.) and reflect on the percentage of time devoted to alcoholism at all such meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry