

November 4, 1966

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Dear Mike,

It has taken me sometime to review the laboratory report. The subject is a most important one, and especially with the recent articles which you have read. The major criticism that I have of the paper is the lack of focus. The introduction is dedicated to the general problem of laboratory standards, much as our previous report. The discussion exercises some theoretical aspects of the laboratory test changes, and the methods and results are a sample statement of some of the changes observed in our program. If the report is to be focussed on laboratory data, then the discussion should follow some of the similar aspects of our previous report and perhaps expound more fully on the significance of laboratory tests in the treatment of the mentally ill.

But this would be too weak. If the focus were to be on the significance of laboratory test changes as indices of physiological effects of these compounds, as seems to have been the focus in some of the recent reports, then this document is deficient in not annotating the other reports more fully.

With this in mind, I would suggest a concentrated review of the literature of the last two years on the association of phenothiazines with sudden deaths, EKG and cardiac changes, effects on the visual system and on the skin. By summarizing these valuable reports, I think you will be presenting a succinct picture of a major problem. After that introduction, the specific aspects of the data which we find unusual in our long term study patients, can be presented within the context that perhaps the small changes are still of significance.

My comments regarding the present discussion are largely related to the fact that I do not think we are in a good position to discuss theoretical aspects of clinical physiology from our vantage point of psychiatry.

I trust these comments are helpful. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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