

May 25, 1965

Dr. Ivan F. Bennett
Ely Lilly and Company
RR 18, Box 285
Indianapolis 24, Indiana

Dear Ivan:

A few weeks ago, my associate Dr. Itil and I became interested in a recent report concerning cycloserine. I wrote to George Crane and received a detailed summary of his experiences with this drug. In his letter, he indicates that you had undertaken some trials in chronic schizophrenic patients without "any success."

At the time that I wrote to George, I also sent a letter to the Medical Department of Ely Lilly and Company. I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of that letter, for I believe that I should have written it to you directly. We are interested in this compound, and any information that you can make available to me would be appreciated. Specifically, can you provide us with answers to the questions in our letter? Also, could you summarize your experiences with clinic schizophrenic patients, for this is the group that we have most readily available to us.

During the past few months, we have begun experiments with some of our severe long term schizophrenic patients along the lines of intensive central nervous system stimulation. We now have patients receiving administrations of high doses of LSD, or Ditrin and chlorpromazine, or high doses of atropine. In each of these treatments we are attempting to alter the cerebral rhythms which do not appear to alter with the usual psychotropic medication. The patients selected for this study are those who seem to have an unmodifiable alpha rhythm. The reported ability of cycloserine to induce high voltage slow wave activity interests us, and we would consider the administration of this compound to our long term patients to induce these brain changes and hopefully concomitant behavioral changes.

I would appreciate your comments, and your assistance in undertaking this project.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: Dr. Itil