

March 21, 1964

Dr. Abraham S. Lenzner
One Sussex Road
University Gardens
Great Neck, L.I., New York

Dear Abe:

Your recent letter struck very sympathetic chords, and stimulated a great deal of discussion at home. First, let me thank you for all the bits of news which are always welcome. I was most stimulated by your remark that Judy has carried out a science project at Waldemar. I know of no better way to stimulate a research career than by such early study. I can recall with some pleasure the early work that I did in high school under the stimulation of a virago biologist, who felt that two of us should devote our major efforts to helping her set up laboratory demonstrations. Since the demonstrations were experiments, some of which she had never done before, it became necessary for us to practice. This led us to carry out some studies in the developing chick, which I later repeated in college. Waldemar was lucky to have Judy, and I feel that this is such an important venture that I have encouraged my associates to devote some of their energies to supervising summer candidates. We have not yet made the arrangements with the high schools but are working with the medical schools and I hope, one of the universities.

The other piece of news that was very new to me was the appointment of Lou Linn. He will find the position at the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital a difficult one, for I knew many of the physicians who are active in that program. They are my father's contemporaries and my father has been a member of the Bronx Hospital staff since that hospital was established. Nevertheless, I think the challenge is an excellent one and I am only surprised that he left Mt. Sinai for it was my impression that he was grooming himself to take the Chief's position when he retired.

Our own training programs are primarily in the development of residents for state service. The relationship with the medical school has been an exciting one, for me personally, but like all medical schools, the staff is reluctant to affiliate itself fully

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with the state service. As a consequence, we have our own residency training program which is separate from theirs. An active part of our program is teaching of psychotherapy. Two members of the staff give weekly seminars in psychotherapy techniques and there is one continuous case. In addition, our residents work in the out-patient department two hours a day throughout their three year program. In that unit, the director and three consultants are excellent psychotherapists, and they supervise the residents both individually, at least one hour a week, and in group sessions, at least two hours a week. Furthermore, the Psychoanalytic Foundation of St. Louis gives a series of seminars two evenings a week for nine months. These seminars are attended by all the residents of the city. Two of the analysts are consultants in the out-patient department and give seminars within our institution in addition. If I add up the number of hours given to psychotherapy per week, each resident has a minimum of four hours direct supervision and an additional three hours of lecture and seminar. Sometimes I think we talk our residents to death!

I was sorry to read about the court injunction because such legal maneuvers, even when necessary, do little to clarify the issues involved.

Our psychology internship program is devoted largely to giving young psychologists who have completed their B.A., a year's experience in psychological testing, counseling, and observation and participation in group behavior. We have few such interns and they generally go on to the university for their doctoral training. The psychology training program at Washington University is focused largely on developing university teachers, community oriented psychologists who become active in studies of urban renewal, industrial applications, etc. Few graduates from Washington University (or St. Louis University) go into the active practice of psychotherapy. Indeed, the general attitude in the city is that psychotherapy is a part of medical practice and while there are a few clinical psychologists in practice, their numbers are few and their status relatively low.

You may surely look forward to seeing us in Great Neck this summer. We have been inundated by the brochures of the Fair, and finally the children have joined forces to insist that even if we do not attend, they must attend the Fair. I believe that we will send them and Martha to Great Neck for a major part of July. It is our expectation that during the first week of August, Jonathan, Martha and I will leave for Israel and then Europe, and the girls will stay with my mother.

It was a pleasure chatting with you this way, and I look forward to visiting with you this summer. Our best regards to Jean and the girls.

Sincerely yours,

MF/jb

Max Fink, M.D.
Director