

J. Sellers

July 2, 1978

Richard D. Weiner, M.D., Ph.D.
Durham V.A. Hospital
Durham, NC

Dear Dr. Weiner,

It was kind of you to spend so much time with me on Thursday and to share your recent experiences with me. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to get to know ~~your~~ your work better and I do hope that you will continue your studies into ECT. It would be nice to work on a collaborative study program at the V.A.

I have read your report on the electrodes for ECT and am answering your request for comments. I am puzzled by the thrust of the ~~paper~~ paper. It describes the theoretical basis for the difficulties occasionally seen in the induction of seizures. Since most therapists are successful in inducing seizures without detailed attention to the issues that you describe, it is likely that these ~~problems~~ problems are of small magnitude in clinical practice. They are of considerable magnitude in research programs, particularly those which attempt to dissect the factors in the ~~seizure~~ seizure which may be important.

The recommendations on page 11 are really research recommendations. Clinicians can safely ignore these details if they monitor the seizure. Ultimately, no clinician is going to be concerned with the details of the induction. He will be satisfied (as will you and I) that he has induced a therapeutic event. The simplest way of guaranteeing this is the use of a blood pressure cuff.

The article is an excellent introduction to your research protocol and as the basis for understanding the differences in observations between different observers. I do not see it as a publishable paper in its present form without additional observations and data.

Again, my thanks for your time. I hope you write the V.A. about the collaborative studies. Let me know what happens.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.