

October 28, 1964

Dr. Robert Heath  
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Tulane University School of Medicine  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Bob:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the many courtesies that you and your associates, Dr. Galbraith, extended to Mr. William Lang during his visit with you last week. He came back from his tour much encouraged with the pharmacological and psychiatric work that he had seen and I anticipate an encouraging response in his work.

During the EEG meetings in Santa Fe, Dr. Brazier presented a paper demonstrating that the frequency spectral changes in scalp electrodes paralleled the production of spikes in electrodes in temporal regions in man. The figures indicated that in patients with considerable alpha activity on the surface, there was a decrease in the amount of alpha and an increase in both the theta and beta bands - a broadening of the spectrum of frequencies - which was interpreted as a surface sign of spikes occurring in the depth. The figures resembled the spectral changes seen with intravenous imipramine so remarkably that I have taken the liberty of sending copies of my figures to her. In your patients with various depth electrodes, have you had the occasion to administer imipramine? If so, is it possible for one of your assistants to check whether spike activity is induced and where, and whether the surface records show this desynchronization phenomena? While the question may be a bit irregular, I hope you will understand that those of us who have found their work limited to surface electrodes are always interested in any expression of correlations between the depth and the surface which may be helpful in the interpretation of our observations.

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Again, my thanks for your many courtesies and  
my best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Director

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