

October 14, 1963

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Dear Jim:

During these past few weeks I have followed up the recommendation of Dr. Serafetinides. I am indeed very grateful for your comments as subsequent inquiries substantiated some of your hesitancies. Many thanks.

I have just returned from the American EEG meetings. A good portion of the time was devoted to reports about automatic EEG analysis and the applications of averaging techniques. I found that the other methods recommended for EEG analysis were in no way superior to our present program and so we will probably continue. During the past three months, we have developed both the equipment and the technical methods to use the IBM 1710 computer for the analysis of EEG with three program models: Period Analysis (Burch), Power Spectrum, and auto-and cross-correlation. While our equipment is small, I am able to get magnificent curves which reflect subtle changes with drugs very well. It is my hope that we will demonstrate the value of these methods in a small study on the effect of Pentothal in chronic schizophrenics.

There are a number of research projects now in progress. Sam Gershon has continued with the problem of blocking agents to Ditrán, both in dogs and in man. As a side issue, he had a student attempt a replication of Dr. Vanderkamp's report on differences in leucocytes in schizophrenic patients. Of course, he was unable to confirm this observation.

Dr. James H. Margerison
October 14, 1963
Page Two

On our wards, we have 50 chronic schizophrenics and a smaller number of manic patients. In the chronic schizophrenics, we are interested in determining the extent to which chronic brain dysfunction exists and may be a factor of their poor therapeutic response. These treatment failures are a challenge and if we can determine the extent to which chronic brain syndromes are a factor, I believe we may be able to focus the efforts of our acute treatment centers in a more satisfactory fashion.

In the manic patients, Sam Gershon is repeating his Lithium study. We are, however, introducing measurements of various blood cations under a "strict" dietary control. (This is, of course, the most difficult part of the study).

Turan has been surveying the hospital population to bring over a number of post-hobotomized epileptics and is interested in the relation of their EEG changes to their behavior.

Throughout all of this, we are assessing the value of Butapera-zine in one group of patients. In another, we have taken them off all medication and anticipate very little change if we keep them off medication.

It has been a full year since I came to Missouri and as I look about me I am delighted that we have an operating organization. As you know, there will always be a place for you if you can see your way clear to spending some time in the States.

Many thanks for your help. My best regards to Shelia.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Director

MF:mlg