

*J. Becken
Helmchen*

October 1, 1979

Prof. Dr. H. Helmchen
Nussbaumallee 36
1000 Berlin 19

Dear Helmchen,

Thank you for the reprints of your studies of the behavioral changes in epilepsy. I found the work quite good and complementary to our own interest in the effects of seizures in ECT. Over the years, I have often wondered why more epileptologists did not take advantage of the natural experiments which psychiatrists provide in the ECT process, in allowing a study of the interrelations between degree of brain change, number and frequency of seizures, and psychopathology. When I did my principal studies of psychopathology, in the late 1950's, not as much was known about the assessment of behavior and our work was quite coarse. Were we to do the same studies today, our methods would be more detailed and would parallel your efforts more closely.

I also enclose a reprint of our recent study of the EEG effects of phenytoin. It shows clearly that there is an intimate relation between plasma level of phenytoin and EEG response. I think the failure of many physicians to get behavioral effects in patients with neurosis may be due to the low levels they used.

Again, my thanks for your help. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry