



# THE BLACK VAULT

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Plain letter to 31-3

35-7

[Redacted]

November 16, 1955

[Redacted]

Dear Sir:

As I told you I would, I was down in Washington for several meetings, and for that reason was unable to get to answer your questions before this. First, as concerns the use of flickering lights in interrogation: The inquirer says that it is "evident that this method is used to confuse or exhaust the man;" actually within recent years there has been a considerable interest among neuro-physiologists, neurologists, and psychiatrists, and the phenomenon of increased excitability of the motor cortex following sensory stimulation and incidental to this the use of straboscopic light stimulation was devised by Henri Gasteaut, a French investigator who first reported on the combination of this type of photic stimulation with the added use of metrazol a few years ago. We have had considerable experience with this particularly in the activation of certain cases of latent epilepsy, and Doctors [redacted] and [redacted] have reported on it quite extensively.

It has been recognized that internal light stimulation for certain can cause a grand mal type of seizure in a small percentage of epileptics. By using this phenomenon the epileptic threshold can be established.

There are a few persons who can have their cortex driven by certain frequencies of light stimulation and associated with this there are some peculiar dissociated experiences. On occasion we have had such persons actually hallucinate. All of them have some measure of illusions as a consequence of this.

It is evident also that light is not the only sensory stimulus which can produce this effect. Sonic activation has also been reported (see Arollano et al) in 333 Clin. Neurophysiol. 1950, 2:215-217.

There is rather extensive literature on the subject which can be gotten together for you if you wish.

November 16, 1955

✓ You mention your willingness to help us obtain certain medications and drugs were they not ordinarily available, and I would now like to ask about the possibility of getting a C-14 tagged on lysine. I had mentioned to you our planned work on the detection of it in various nuclei in the central nervous system by utilizing factor technique of having it fluoresce under ultraviolet light. As you can appreciate, we are dealing in extremely small quantities and for that reason feel that it would be well to be more accurate as well as to detect small quantities by the use of a radioautograph technique that is having the brain slices take their own photographs on film the exposure being accomplished by the presence of radioactive carbon.

✓ I will be glad to spell out the foregoing in more detail if it would be helpful. Then, too, sometime ago we talked about the possibility of our studying Amanita pantherina toxicity provided some of the substance could be made available. We have set up a program whereby we can look into the riga coriacea you sent me with a view toward running down the responsible factors.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted text]

is working on

Amanita phalloides -