

July 9, 1964

Dr. Bernard Rimland
Director, Personnel Measurement Research Department
U. S. Naval Personnel Research Laboratory
San Diego, California

Dear Dr. Rimland:

Thank you for sending me your monograph, which I read with deep interest.

You certainly do beat the psychogenecists with a heavy rock, but I would be the last to protest. As you take pains to stress the speculative, personalistic character of the work you will not expect your reader to agree on every detail of taste or inference, and I will not trouble you with my own 'druthers. You have indeed suggested a number of interesting lines of research; particularly as regards influences on cerebral circulation they reinforce some of my own vaguer notions, and I will try to lend any weight I can add to attracting more interest to them.

The matter of birth-order statistics has been of some interest here, also along the lines of the support they could (and often fail to) give to psychodynamic theory. You seem to have collected much of the literature on this; if you have any further references I would be grateful to you for them.

What are the statistics on the "markedly larger labor common in first-births" - p. 141?

In autism, can you separate parity from maternal age? Are there fertility-disturbances in kindreds with autism? Can you calculate an explicit risk of autism per single, per multiple birth from the data you have scanned? Will the latterday conservatism in the postnatal use of oxygen show up in a mitigation of the incidence of autism? (And I am worried not to see a tighter statistical correlation of autism with retrolental fibrop#asia.) After all, if it were there, it would sew up your hypothesis.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

P.S. I had read the book and dictated the reply before my secretary passed your letter on to me, so you succeeded in the aim in your first paragraph. I will be glad to see you after your arrival here.

RIMLAND, B.