

February 2, 1972

Dr. Gilbert Gottlieb
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Dear Gilbert:

Thank you for sending me the revision of your "Introduction". I am glad that I am now in an unclassified category. But otherwise I am less than happy about the new changes in your chapter. The frank statements in my chapter leave no doubt as to my present position which supersedes all previous ones. I think that this position represents a reasonable combination of our differing viewpoints, as we had worked out in our correspondence. In my opinion, my conciliatory attitude is more constructive for the future of our science than sharp confrontations of views. I am also quite perplexed at being accused of "fostering and encouraging a negative, non-experimental attitude to the possible role of function", since I am the one who has introduced and encouraged the experimental method of studying the role of sensory input in embryos. I am equally puzzled at the insinuation that my efforts of opening doors should have a "stultifying" influence.

When I suggested that you may "reciprocate" one day, the emphasis was on "affirmative." I feel that in the past your tendency has been to point out what we have not done but should have done; what our experiments do not permit us to conclude; shortcomings of our methods, etc. I am probably more aware than anybody else of the imperfections and limitations of our work; and I don't mind your criticism. In fact it was helpful and appreciated. But I thought that the critical tone might have been balanced at one time or another by a positive statement that, after all, the experimental embryological method has introduced a powerful analytical tool in a field in which guesses had prevailed previously; and that my theoretical efforts, whether or not they are acceptable, have reopened the discussion of an important issue which had been dormant for many years.

Sincerely,

Viktor Hamburger

VH/o