

CONFIDENTIAL

Application for a grant by Mr. E. Lesser
of the Chelsea College of Science
and Technology.

At the Extraordinary P.S.G. meeting held on 10th August, I was instructed to contact Mr. Lesser and recommend whether I thought T.R.C. should support his request for a grant (C1020). I first of all decided to consult Dr. Barlow (who knows Lesser) to see (a) what he thought of the problem and (b) what he thought about Lesser's work. The basic problem in which Lesser is interested is: "Acetylcholine, nicotine and acetyl - α - Methylcholine all contract the chick biventer muscle. When you treat the chick biventer with eserine you would expect the isomer of acetyl - α - methylcholine, which is more readily destroyed by cholinesterase to be relatively more active and it isn't. He therefore wonders whether the potentiation of Acetylcholine by eserine has anything to do with inhibition of acetylcholinesterase. (This is quite heretical !) and plans to study potentiation of ACh-like activity at nicotine receptors and attempt to correlate this with anticholinesterase activity." From what Dr. Barlow wrote in his letter to me about Lesser (which he asked me to regard as highly confidential) he does not seem to be a particularly sound or industrious pharmacologist.

Recommendation.

Having sounded Dr. Barlow I have no hesitation in recommending that T.R.C. does not support Lesser. (Dr. Bentley agreed that in view of the unfavourable impression received from Dr. Barlow, it was not worth my while in going to see Lesser.) The grounds for rejecting the request are

- (1) The proposed research is not of sufficient interest for T.R.C. to consider giving another outside grant. It is closely allied to the sort of work Dr. Barlow is undertaking.

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(ii) The grant requested is unreasonable. The work could be completed probably in 3-6 months and certainly not longer than 1 year.

(iii) We do not have complete confidence in the grantee.

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