

September 8, 1966

Benedict M. Reynolds, M.D  
Misericordia Hospital  
Bronx, N.Y

Dear Dr. Reynolds

I have read with interest your study on instrumental dilatation of the Papilla of Vater. Having received my surgical training in the U.S. I also am prejudiced against the systematic dilatation of the Vaterian Sphincter.

I did follow however Bakes and Prof. Zawisch V. Ossentz's argument as Bakes happens to be my cousin. His successor Dr. Novotny in Brno, Czechoslovakia wrote to me some years ago that in some 3500 cases they did not feel that systematic dilatation produced any significant consequences, and thus continue to use today the procedure that Bakes applied for the first time in 1909!

I happen to have all the original material of Bakes including photographs, letters, statistics and manuscripts. His more important work is in three volumes entitled "Surgical Methods", which he unfortunately published in Czech and thus they are not available to the wider public.

Sincerely

Karel B. Absolon, M.D

KBA:bc