

JOHANNESBURG.
13th January, 1975.

Dearest Bob,

I have been making inquiries about the possibilities of treatment, but the field seems to be in a pretty retarded state. The best idea that has been offered to me is treatment through a GP, in the form of what is known as "aversion therapy". This means giving some kind of a drug which creates a definite aversion to alcohol: anyone who is on the drug and who then has a drink becomes ill, thus creating, in theory at least, a conditioned reflex against alcohol. I think for the treatment to work really well, the person concerned should start off wanting to discontinue drinking.

The drug is administered either through tablets which have to be taken every day, or even better, through an implant -- that is, a quantity of it is placed under the skin so that the person is subject to it whether he likes it or not (obviously, with tablets, the temptation arises not to take them or worse, to pretend to take them while not doing so).

It might be a good idea to speak to your GP about this, to see whether he knows about the aversion therapy (it is widely used these days), and if he can undertake the treatment. One other point by the way: I would imagine that, in law, as the parent you can insist that your child undergo this without running the risk of a charge of assault, which of course normally an implant without permission would constitute!

I hope you are making progress in establishing an improved personal relationship. Will you let me know what happens? I am most worried about it.

It was good to be together again. The hours went by too quickly.

All our love.

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Author:- **Benjamin Pogrund**

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