

December 15, 1970

NOTES ON VISIT TO DR. W.F. FORBES, PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS
AND CHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, WATERLOO, ONT.

Having heard that Dr. Forbes had set up a research programme in the field of Smoking and Health, Mr. R.S. Wade, Imperial Tobacco Products Limited, arranged a meeting with Dr. Forbes for Monday, December 7, and when Mr. Wade advised me of his plans I took advantage of the opportunity to join him. We had a very pleasant meeting and an interesting discussion with Dr. Forbes, and also met some members of his staff; i.e., Drs. W.H. Cherry, J.C. Robinson, and Richert.

Dr. Forbes has initiated the following research projects:

TWIN STUDY

This study is along similar lines to the Twin Study being carried out by Dr. Friberg and Dr. Cederlof, in Sweden. In this project Dr. Forbes intends using 300 pairs of monozygotic (identical) twins drawn from the Kitchener-Waterloo area, and they will all be personally interviewed as to their smoking habits and other pertinent factors. All follow-ups of these individuals will also be by personal interview and it can be expected that this project will cover quite a number of years. From the viewpoint of the Industry, this should be a very interesting study, particularly if Dr. Forbes' findings corroborate those so far reported by Drs. Friberg and Cederlof.

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NICOTINE STUDY

The view has frequently been expressed in scientific circles that the most significant reason people smoke is for the nicotine. Furthermore, there is some evidence which indicates that people tend to adjust the way they smoke to reflect their nicotine requirements. If this view is correct, then establishing how people smoke and whether they change their smoking pattern with a modified cigarette is, from the Industry's viewpoint, most important. Dr. Forbes is pursuing this line of thought by giving individuals commercial cigarettes of known and different nicotine deliveries and checking the nicotine level to which the individual is exposed by determining the nicotine content in the butts.

In connection with the foregoing, we mentioned to Dr. Forbes that tar and nicotine should not be referred to in the same context as if they had the same physiological effect; in other words, there is a need to dissociate the two. Incidentally, these views are of significance in the context of published tar and nicotine tables.

AROMATIC POLYCYCLIC HYDROCARBONS

The connective tissue in the lung is composed largely of collagen. Dr. Forbes has not been able to find benzpyrene or other aromatic polycyclic hydrocarbons in the lung and he is therefore interested in trying to find out what happens to these hydrocarbons. In

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this work he is using benzpyrene and collagen to determine whether the benzpyrene reacts with the collagen in any way, and also whether it promotes changes parallel to those that take place with aging; i.e., connective tissue tends to become more brittle with age.

The funds for the foregoing projects are basically from the University, with possibly a little from the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare.

Dr. Forbes brought up the subject of the tobacco industry, the Government and the universities working together in the field of Smoking and Health. He said he was all in favour of this and has mentioned it to Dr. Colburn a number of times. We told Dr. Forbes that the Industry was also interested in this approach and that we have repeatedly mentioned this to the Department of National Health and Welfare - from the Minister down. Dr. Forbes said that he would again write to Dr. Colburn along these lines.

L.C. Laporte

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