

Research & Development

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Seen by:

To :- MR. D.S.F. HOBSON. From :- Charles Ellis.
Through :- [1] Mr. H.D. Anderson. D. G. Felton.
[2] " A.D. McCormick. I. W. Hughes.

A "SAFER" CIGARETTE.

PROVISION OF BIO-ASSAY.

This project is now well known in discussions at T.R.C. It refers to a cigarette which, on being smoked, has diminished physiological effects of types which are considered undesirable, for example, irritation and damage to cilia, or increased proliferation of goblet cells. No direct claim is made that such cigarettes would be less carcinogenic. Experiments to identify a "safer" cigarette in this sense can be carried out more quickly since in many cases, in contrast to the long drawn out carcinogenic tests, these bio-assays can be carried out in days, or at most weeks.

T.R.C. is now committed to plans for such Bio-Assay Screening Tests [B.A.S.T.], and are considering building suitable laboratories at Harrogate, and engaging staff. All of this, however, will take time, and it may well be a year or 18 months before any effective facilities are available. Even when they do become available they will have to be shared between the member companies of T.R.C.

Fortunately at R. & D., Southampton, there are many ideas on methods by which cigarettes can be made "safer" in the above sense. They include appropriate blending of the different types of tobacco, and also changing the re-pyrolysis of the tobacco products deposited in the rod by varying the characteristics of the paper. In addition, a variety of different filters are now available, some of which have selectively high efficiency for one or more components in the vapour phase. R. & D. would like to make a quick survey of a number of these different variables, taking one at a time rather than gambling on making a lucky guess at one suitable combination.

The problem, therefore, is to provide quickly Bio-Assay Screening Tests for the use and under the control of R. & D. One of us [D.G.F.] visited Battelle, Frankfurt, to examine the possibility of having tests

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set up there, and concluded that some could be available about three months after agreement of a firm contract.

In the Appendix is a report on the types of cigarettes that could be submitted for bio-assay, and also on the bio-assay tests that could be set up at Frankfurt. We should like these details of the Appendix to be considered as illustrating the project and not at this stage as defining it. We ask now for agreement that Battelle should be requested to submit a firm Proposal within the general framework of the Appendix and subject to the working out of details in discussion with Dr. Felton and Dr. Hughes. This does not in any way commit B.-A.T. to accept the Proposal.

If this course of action is agreed the Proposal, when received from Battelle, will be submitted for approval and accompanied by an up-to-date assessment of the then current position of bio-assay screening tests at T.R.C.

C.D.E.

D.G.F.

I.W.H.

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