

dry Salt Tills

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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

TO ALL NO. 1s OF ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

SMOKING AND HEALTH

Since our last circular there have been two developments of considerable interest:-

- 1. Results of experiments carried out at the Research Institute of the German Cigarette Industry.

On 21st November the Director of the Institute, Professor Dr. W. Dantenwill, released the results of these experiments to the German press and a copy of a translation of the press release is enclosed. As will be noted, it covers two large scale series of experiments on animals; one, painting mice with condensate, the other getting hamsters to inhale whole smoke. It also provides some additional comments on Dr. H.P. Harke's experiment in the field of passive smoking, which was the subject of our previous circular of 7th November.

The full results of the two animal experiments have not yet been published in scientific journals and consequently no external comment or possible criticism of them is yet available. In our view, however, the findings which are of particular importance are:-

- (a) The gas/vapour phase is shown to be inactive in both experiments.
- (b) The inhalation experiment produced no tumours in the lungs of the hamsters (although tumours in the larynx were produced).
- (c) In both experiments sheet reconstituted by certain, but not all, processes was demonstrated as being less biologically active than natural tobacco.

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- (d) Filter cigarettes were shown to be less biologically active than plain cigarettes - with acetate filters producing the least activity. To a large extent this is probably attributable to an overall reduction in the particulate smoke intake.
- (e) The addition of sodium nitrate, in both experiments, achieved a significant reduction in biological activity.
- (f) Both whole smoke and condensate were shown to be promoters rather than initiators.
- (g) No other diseases (e.g. heart disease) were produced by the inhalation experiment.

Information contained in the press release is now, of course, public knowledge. If No. 1s wish to make use of this information in the light of their local circumstances, would they please make clear, as set out in the second paragraph of this circular, that the full results of the two animal experiments have not yet been published in scientific journals.

The commercial and scientific implications of these findings are currently under consideration in Millbank and No. 1s will be kept in touch with developments.

2. Sugar content of cigarettes

In a programme in the "Tomorrow's World" series on B.B.C. television on 16th November, the theory was put forward that sugar content rather than tar may well be the most harmful element in cigarettes.

It was postulated that the lung cancer rates were higher in Britain than in the U.S.A. and France, because British cigarettes are made of flue-cured tobacco with a higher sugar content than the air-cured tobacco which is used in substantial proportions in French and American cigarettes.

This theme was further developed in the enclosed article in the Sunday Times on 19th November. Thereafter Dr. Fenner, to whom amongst others the article refers, was interviewed on Radio 4 on 22nd November. In this interview he admitted that the theory was "very ill-substantiated so far".

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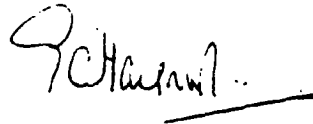
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He added that the theory had a long way to go before it could be accepted and might well be wrong.

There is reason to believe, however, that the Sunday Times may be planning to publish its own league tables for cigarettes, one based on tar and nicotine content and the other on sugar content. It is also thought not unlikely that it will recommend to the smokers among its readers to pay attention to the sugar rankings rather than the tar rankings.

As regards the significance of sugar content in cigarettes, the Tobacco Research Council has been associated with research in this area for a number of years and in its view the evidence on this particular problem is inconclusive.

It is understood that the Department of Health and Social Services in the U.K. will, if it receives enquiries, be stating that "the evidence on sugar so far is inconclusive". T.R.C. will be following the same line but being careful to emphasise that it is not qualified to make medical judgments. It is recommended that No. 1s should adopt a similar stance, if comment becomes necessary.



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