

in tobacco, there will be ways of taking it out."

Either filtration or chemical means could probably be used to remove it, he added.

All the tobacco researchers agree that 3,4 benzpyrene, one of the most heavily indicted possible carcinogens, is not worth worrying about at the present time.

Dr. Robert Du Puis, research director, Philip Morris & Company, said that there is no proof that 3,4 benzpyrene is actually in a cigarette. All the evidence has been based on interpreting the findings of analytical instruments. The interpretations are open to question themselves, he stated.

Lorillard's Dr. Parmele noted that most labs have written off 3,4 benzpyrene long ago.

Another researcher, Dr. William W. Bates, Liggett & Myers, reported that scientists have been trying to isolate 3,4 benzpyrene and prove that it is there for years, but with no success.

Making the "clean" cigarette involves increasing the combustion by some method until there is only carbon dioxide and water in the smoke. But then the things people look for in smoking would not be there, Dr. Bates said.

Dr. Kenneth Hoover, research director for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, said that the company did no research on the "health angle." Its contributions for research go to the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, New York, which allocates funds from the major companies to independent researchers in the U. S.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Label Protects Shopper

Labeling laws established by the Federal Government assist the individual to make an intelligent choice, based on facts, in buying foods, drugs and cosmetics.

➤ THE DAYS of the open cracker barrel in the country store are over for most Americans. Then, it was easy to inspect the wares and even sample them, but nowadays most food comes sealed up against dirt and spoilage. Even so, there is one dependable guide—the label on the package.

Labels help the purchaser get his money's worth and protect his family's health, but if he fails to read them, he loses that protection.

Today's food producers who obey the label laws give necessary information for intelligent buying. Here are some of the things a legitimate label tells.

First, it gives an accurate description of what is inside. When the can or package contains more than one ingredient, they are listed in the order of predominance in the food.

Secondly, exactly how much food is inside is specified since the law requires producers to specify the amount in common units of weight and measure. Also, the law requires that the stated amount has to fill the package.

"We do not want to give out any public information at this time," Dr. Hoover said.

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AGRICULTURE

Watch Out For Witchweed

➤ A SMALL, bright green weed with small flowers, usually brick red or scarlet, is on the rampage, warns the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Witchweed is the name of the parasitic plant that is destroying crops.

Its roots attach themselves to the host plant's roots and penetrate them so that the host—corn, for example—no longer can get food and water.

Witchweed-infested corn fields were complete failures in 1956. Crops of sugarcane, sorghum, many grasses, including crabgrass, and some sedges and broadleaved plants have been attacked.

The danger of the weed spreading and attacking crops throughout the nation is so serious the Department of Agriculture has issued a warning asking farmers to notify their county agricultural agents if witchweed is found or suspected.

Farmers are especially asked not to move machinery root crops, hay or transplant crops from infested to uninfested land. Witchweed can be spread by the movement of soil—even in the cuffs of pants, reports the Department.

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to list the ingredients but those that are listed must not be misleading.

Coal-tar hair dyes are one cosmetic that the law exempts from the provision that no cosmetic can contain a poisonous or harmful substance. If the dye does contain such a substance, the label must warn that the skin of some people sensitive to the dye may be irritated by the dye and must caution the user to make a preliminary test.

The pamphlet "Read the Label," available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 20 cents, contains more suggestions on how the individual is able to select products by reading their labels.

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When vitamin content is claimed on the label, it has to be in the food. The label must give the percentage of the minimum daily requirement of the vitamin that a reasonable amount of the food will furnish.

It is equally important to read carefully the label on drugs and cosmetics.

Legal drug labels give adequate directions for use and must also warn when the drug should not be taken. Regardless of sales promotion, do not expect any more from a drug than what is printed on the label. Wild claims on labels are much less frequent than they were years ago, but old-time quack remedies have a way of turning up in new disguises. Sometimes the labels are perfectly "clean" but the wild claims are made in booklets or advertising.

Of course, a label is not required on prescription drugs. Here, the doctor is the purchaser's safeguard.

Every year Americans use tons of toothpaste, hand cream, hair dressing and other cosmetics, and these, too, are protected by labeling laws. Cosmetic labels do not have