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Smoking Causes Cancer

(Continued from p. 51)

substantiated by epidemiological or experimental studies.

Cirrhosis of the Liver

Increased mortality of smokers from cirrhosis of the liver has been shown in the prospective studies. The data are not sufficient to support a direct or causal association.

Infant Birth Weight

Women who smoke cigarettes during pregnancy tend to have babies of lower birth weight. Information is lacking on the mechanism by which this decrease in birth weight is produced. It is not known whether this decrease in birth weight has any influence on the biological fitness of the newborn.

Smoking and Accidents

Smoking is associated with accidental deaths from fires in the home. No conclusive information is available on the effects of smoking on traffic accidents.

Morphological Constitution

The available evidence suggests the existence of some morphological differences between smokers and non-smokers, but is too meager to permit a conclusion.

Psycho-Social Aspects

A clear cut smoker's personality has not emerged from the results so far published. While smokers differ from non-smokers in a variety of characteristics, none of the studies has shown a single variable which is found solely in one group and is completely absent in another. Nor has any single variable been verified in a sufficiently large proportion of smokers and in sufficiently few non-smokers to consider it an "essential" aspect of smoking.

The overwhelming evidence points to the conclusion that smoking—its beginning, habituation, and occasional discontinuation—is to a large extent psychologically and socially determined. This does not rule out physiological factors, especially in respect to habituation, nor the existence of predisposing constitutional or hereditary factors.

• Science News Letter, 85:51 Jan. 25, 1964

GENERAL SCIENCE

West and South Show Gain in Doctorates

➤ AN INCREASING PROPORTION of top-level degrees is being awarded by schools in the southern and western sections of the United States, a study by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council has found.

Together, the southern and western sections now account for 32% of U.S. doctorates. In 1920 these sections produced only 18% of the doctorates.

There has been a corresponding decline in the relative contribution of the Northeast—from 46% in 1920 to 34% now, the report pointed out.

• Science News Letter, 85:52 Jan. 25, 1964

Questions

CHEMISTRY—What intermediate chemical compound was used in the synthesis of cellulose? p. 53.

ENGINEERING—What is the heart of the new automated ship? p. 55.

MEDICINE—What drug has been found useful against trichinosis? p. 57.

METEOROLOGY—Why does the January thaw appear to be more pronounced in the Northeast? p. 62.

OCEANOGRAPHY—Which nocturnal marine animal is the noisiest? p. 56.

PUBLIC HEALTH—What is the most important cause of chronic bronchitis? p. 51.

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