

17th February, 1958.

My dear Arthur,

As you may have heard, in discussing with various people the supposed evidence that cancer of the lung is caused at least partially from cigarette-smoking, I have been led to point to a grave omission of the English and American medical research workers in this field to consider the possibility that the smoking classes are genetically differentiated, and that this is the explanation of whatever differences in cancer incidence may be found between these classes.

I have consequently been led to suggest various positive methods of ascertaining factually whether such differentiation can be demonstrated. One method - a rather laborious one - is by twin study, and has been undertaken in Italy and, I now hear, in Sweden. A second method, which I think should be much more rapid, I have suggested to the Tobacco Manufacturers' Committee as worth financing, and I can now say that they would be willing to meet all proper expenses, including remunerations, necessary to get it carried out by admittedly well-qualified and independent workers.

What I have suggested is that some 5000 persons, aged 35 and upwards, should be registered according to their smoking habits, which by that age should be stabilized, i.e. known to conform with their temperament though not necessarily to be perpetuated

for life. These would be grouped with all available testing fluids, up to ~~50~~²⁰ or so if possible, so as to obtain the widest spectrum of combinations. Differentiation would be shown if there were significant differences observable between major smoking classes such as non-smokers and cigarette-smokers. In discussing the matter I thought that some laboratories might be glad to have expenses covered for such a survey, for their own purposes, and, subject to correction, I have expressed the opinion, which may well be out of date, that a pound a head might cover the expenses. In any case a research grant of this order would be obtained, and what is particularly important to the ~~general~~^{benefit}, as you will see, is that the work should have the highest credentials and the most complete independence in their factual findings.

I thought I would write to you in the first instance so that you might consider what possibilities are open here either in relation to your own Department at the Lister, or to the Anthropological Institute's Committee, or any other group with which you may be connected liable to be interested in fairly large-scale population studies on the widest available basis of testing fluids.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,