

18th September, 1956.

The Editors of Nature,  
Macmillan and Co., Ltd.,  
St. Martins Street,  
London, W.C.2.

Dear Brimble,

I quite agree and I am afraid that Dr. Gordon, distinguished as he is, must be one of those enthusiasts who have made the whole trouble in this matter.

I have drafted a direct personal reply, which I will however not send off unless you think this is the most suitable way of dealing with the matter.

I may say I started my draft letter with a view to be soothing and conciliating, but it has not turned out very much that way!

Sincerely yours,

Enc. I have signed the enclosed so that, if you think fit you can forward it, or alternatively I could send him another copy.

R.A.F.

COPY

18th September, 1958.

Dear Dr. Gordon,

Your letter of September 13th has been forwarded to me, and perhaps the matter can be settled by private correspondence as I really did not commit the fallacy which in your first paragraph you ascribe to me.

I hope you will search my letter of August 30th, to which you refer, for ~~in the~~ statement that the demonstration of genotypic differences excludes possible ~~and~~ environmental factors. I believe you will not find <sup>it</sup> either said or implied.

In view of this demonstrable genotypic differentiation it is not so certain that Hill and Doll have found evidence for an environmental factor. They have found that two genetically different groups differ in their cancer incidences. If a genotypic differentiation had been recognized by, for example, differences in the colour of the skin, I believe no one would have been tempted to infer that the disease was due to skin colour. In fact the "danger" by which so many people have been alarmed may be quite imaginary. It gives me no anxiety that my daughter, who is medically qualified, should be a cigarette smoker.

Finally, I think you propagandists should come into the open about inhaling. The data given by Hill and Doll in 1950, may be of great importance, but the break down of their observations has never been published, and I do not understand that there can

be any good reason for this. If your findings are that cigarettes cause lung cancer, and inhaling cigarette smoke in bulk afford a protection from this disease, Have you the right in conscience to with-hold this <sup>con-</sup>firmation from the public, many of whom will die, perhaps for lack of this timely advice.

Sincerely yours,