

World's Heaviest Cigarette Smokers Said To Have Less Lung Cancer Than British

8 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
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London (Science Service) — The group of persons long recognized as the heaviest cigarette smokers in the world have been found to have a significantly lower incidence of lung cancer than the British, whose incidence is extremely high.

The white South African has long been the highest consumer of packaged cigarettes in the world, Dr. Geoffrey Dean of Provincial Hospital, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, said.

He found that the average white South African male 35 years of age or older smoked approximately 24 cigarettes per day. This includes not only city but rural smokers, he reported in the British Medical Journal.

Mortality Compared
Dr. Dean compared this group's mortality rate from lung cancer with that of a group of British immigrants. He found that deaths due to lung cancer among British immigrants between the ages of 45 and 64 were 44 per cent higher than among white native-born South African males

of the same age range.

The investigator then asked himself if the greater mortality among the immigrants could be due to differences in the tobacco used in cigarettes made in each country. He discovered that the tobacco used in cigarettes in both countries are flue-cured just as they are in the U.S. Those differences that were found between the cigarettes were not considered by Dr. Dean as significant in causing lung cancer.

Furthermore, many of those immigrants who died from lung cancer came to South Africa in their twenties, and those who smoked cigarettes before emigrating would have smoked British cigarettes for only a few years, he reasoned.

Great Differences
There were, however, great differences between the tobacco used in cigarettes manufactured in other European countries before the last war. Consequently, if differences in the tobacco were important, one might expect a considerable difference in the mortality rate from lung cancer between South African men and immigrants from countries other than Great Britain. Yet there is no significant difference, he said.

In fact, the cigarettes smoked by the South African resembles the cigarette puffed by an American, and both experience virtually the same incidences of lung cancer which are much less than in Great Britain.

This led Dr. Dean to conclude that those immigrants who died of lung cancer before age 65 were exposed to the cause or causes before they left Britain.

Despite the cheerful news for South African smokers, the study also revealed that while deaths due to lung cancer are considerably lower than in Britain, the death rate from this disease has doubled in South Africa during the ten-year period between 1947-1956. This increase is unlikely to be due to improved diagnostic facilities, but rather, he suggested, it appears to be a genuine increase.

Follows Growth
This increase has followed the rapid industrialization and growth of cities within the past 40 years, he noted. Both the country and city dwelling white male South African smoke approximately the same amount of cigarettes. Yet, the increase in mortality is much higher in large cities than in rural areas, he pointed out.

For instance, the male lung cancer death rate in the city of Durban is higher than the corresponding rate in any other city in South Africa. This applies to both native-born and immigrants. Cigarette consumption in Durban is no higher than elsewhere in South Africa. Yet, during the ten-year period 1947-1956, the death rate from lung cancer among British immigrants in Durban between the ages 45 and 64 was more than five times higher than the rate among the native-born living in rural districts.

Humid Climate
Pointing the finger of guilt at air pollution, Dr. Dean said that Durban has a hot humid climate. It has fewer sunny

days in the year than the other South African cities. The smoke in Durban per

cubic meter compares with district of London, he said. Thus he concluded that the

higher incidence of lung cancer among residents in South African towns, and in Durban

particularly, as compared with the incidence among residents in rural areas, would

seem to be strong evidence that atmospheric pollution is an important factor. If so, it

is equally likely that the incidence among the more recent British immigrants may

be connected with the air they breathed before emigrating.

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'Adult Primers' Developed for Remedial Reading

Los Angeles (Science Service) — "Adult primers" have been developed at the University of California, Los Angeles, as remedial reading aids.

Designed for children, adolescents and young adults who have reading problems, a new five-book "Deep Sea Adventure Series" uses a basic but gradually expanding vocabulary to develop a full story line.

Authors are Dr. James C. Coleman, Frances Berres, Frank M. Hewett and Dr. William Biscoe of UCLA's Psychological Clinic School. Publisher is Harr-Wagoner of San Francisco.

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Vocabulary and comprehension building aids and suggestions for utilizing the series in a variety of situations are included in an accompanying teacher's manual.

Fire Truck Spoils Youngster's Fun

Stamford, Conn.—Eighteen-month-old Edward Peaks was having the time of his life until the fire truck came along and spoiled the day.

Edward's mother, Mrs. Henry Peaks, accidentally locked herself out of the house. Edward took over while his mother pounded frantically and shouted for admittance.

Edward emptied the cupboards, spilled dishes, buttons, paper and food on the floor. Edward was looking for new fields to conquer when a big guy with a tin hat and an axe broke in and confronted him.

Americans spent \$16.7 billion on medical care in 1958—\$300 million less than they did for recreation, according to the Health Insurance Institute.

Miss Robinson Author Of Magazine Article

Ashland — Author of the article, "Student Membership," appearing in the fall issue of the Oregon Music Educator, is Miss Helene Robinson of the Southern Oregon college music staff and state membership chairman for the Music Educator's National conference.

Pointing out that the student who is anxious to achieve the maximum in education should give serious attention to the scheduling of his time, the article stresses that such a student may well profit by joining campus chapters of MENC, thus gaining the benefits of membership in a professional education organization — and at the same time — channelizing both time and effort into worthwhile experiences.

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