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Health Advice

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Cancer of the lung is increasing as a cause of death of human beings. This seems to be the general opinion of physicians who see a great deal of cancer.

Dr. James Ewing feels that probably the increase is due to a number of different causes. For example, the amount of respiratory disease is steadily growing, particularly various forms of influenza. Then, too, irritation is known to play a part and tar and its derivatives are known to be irritants.

Gasoline fumes, vaporized oils, tar from roads, and other irritating materials associated with the motor car industry are increasingly coming in contact with the human lung.

An interesting fact brought out in a paper read by Dr. Aaron Arkin before the Pan-American Medical Association was the fact that 125 cases out of 135 which came to the Cook county hospital in Chicago between 1931 and 1934 were in men and only 10 cases were in women.

He ventured the opinion that smoking by men was primarily responsible for this high incidence and suggested that as women continue to smoke in increasing numbers and as intensively as they do, cancer of the lung would tend to increase in women.

It is known, of course, that cancer of the tongue used to be almost exclusively a masculine disease and that the increased amount of smoking by women has resulted in the appearance of some cases of cancer of the tongue among them.