

COLOR OF TOBACCO TELLS WHO WILL GET CANCER

Difference between light and dark tobacco may explain the mystery of smoker's cancer, according to experiments by Dr. Angelo H. Roffo, head of the Institute for the Study of Cancer in the University of Buenos Aires, South America. Many cancers of lips, tongue or cheek have been traced to smoking. Fortunately these almost always are curable but doctors still would like to prevent them. Hot pipe stems once were blamed but pipes went out of fashion and smoker's cancer has continued. Some experts blame cigars instead of cigarettes, others call the cigarettes the villains. Meanwhile the only sure fact is that a few smokers get cancer while others do not. Dr. Roffo's suggestion is that this depends on the color of the tobacco. Opposite to what one might expect, he indicts the clean-looking, pale-colored tobaccos as the cancer formers, exonerates the dark-colored, strong-smelling ones. The secret he believes to be the quantities and kinds of tar formed when the tobaccos burn. Certain tarry and oily chemicals are known to produce skin cancer, and similar substances seem to exist in tobacco tars; least in tar from dark tobaccos, most in that from light ones. Experimenting with rabbits, Dr. Roffo finds that tars from lighter tobacco cause quick and virulent cancer of the eye. Tars from black tobacco do so much more slowly. As yet, however, the evidence scarcely is enough to make smokers change their habits or manufacturers their tobacco blends.

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Copied from "THE WEEK'S SCIENCE" of May 1, 1939, issued by Dr. E. E. Fres  
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