

Delos Smith, science editor for United Press, wrote a story on the Doll-Hill study after the British medical publication arrived in this country.

WORLD-TELEGRAM AND SUN
New York, New York
November 27, 1956

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER
November 24, 1956

Science

British Report Links Smoking, Lung Cancer

By DELOS SMITH,
United Press Science Editor.

The newest report on one of afterward to mean very much. the most careful statistical The newest report shows what studies of the relationship (if has happened to them after any) between cig- four years and five months. aret smoking and In that time there were 1714 lung cancer, shows deaths among them—84 from that nonsmokers lung cancer. The mortality rate who died of lung from lung cancer among the cancer, did so much nonsmokers was 0.07 per 1000; later in life than among light smokers, 0.47; the smokers who died of it. among moderate smokers (15

The British Medical Journal singled this out for comment among heavy smokers (24 or from the four-year report of more cigarettes a day) 1.66. But the Doll-Hill study. The report the heavy smokers had a high- has high prestige in the science er mortality rate from what- world because Dr. Richard Doll ever cause than nonsmokers— and Prof. A. Bradford Hill are 18.84 per thousand as opposed members of the British Medical Council and have international repute in the field of medical statistics.

The journal also found that the report gave "a convincing answer to a question of great importance for all smokers: does giving up smoking diminish the risk of developing lung cancer?" It emphasized the finding that the lung cancer mortality rate of the subjects who had given up smoking cigarettes for more than 10 years was about one-third the mortality rate of those who hadn't stopped.

The subjects of the Doll-Hill study number more than 40,000 and are (or were) medical doctors practicing in the British Isles. They set down their smoking habits in autumn 1951. There was one report in 1954 but it was rather too soon

MEDICINE

Relate Smoking to Lung Cancer and Tuberculosis

► A STATISTICAL RELATION between smoking and both lung cancer and tuberculosis is found in two studies reported in the *British Medical Journal* (Nov. 10).

The lung cancer findings are a second report by Drs. Richard Doll and A. Bradford Hill of the Medical Research Council. Five years ago they sent a simple questionnaire on smoking habits to all doctors in the United Kingdom.

Today they report that, among these more than 40,000 men and women, there has been "a marked and steady increase in the death rate from lung cancer as the amount smoked increases."

The mortality has been "substantially and significantly greater in cigarette smokers than in pipe smokers."

Among those who reported five years ago they had given up smoking sometime within the previous ten years or for more than ten years, there was a progressive and significant reduction in mortality with the increase in the length of time over which smoking had been abandoned.

The lung cancer death rate among those who had given up smoking ten years or more before 1951 was about a third that among those still smoking in 1951.

"Three other causes of death show a steady increase in mortality from non-smokers to heavy smokers," Drs. Doll and Hill report. These are chronic bronchitis, stomach ulcer and tuberculosis of the lungs.

Smoking may be "an important cause" of the breakdown of healed or quiescent tuberculosis in adults and may account for a considerable part of the excess of TB deaths of men over women in middle and old age," suggests Dr. C. R. Lowe of the University of Birmingham.

His study was made of smoking habits of patients in TB sanatoriums and clinics and of patients who came to the hospital with minor accidents or for operations other than for lung cancer or TB.

When the two groups were compared, there were very many fewer non-smokers and light smokers and very many more moderate and heavy smokers among the TB patients than among the others. This was true for both sexes at all ages over 30.