

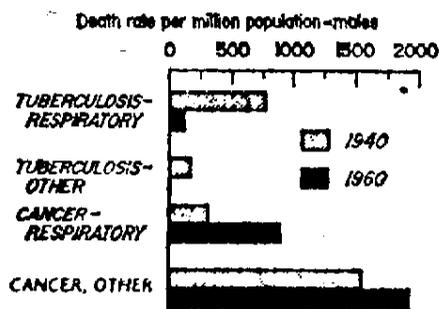
The report of the chief medical officer of England's Ministry of Health received considerable attention in England, but was noted in few U.S. papers.

THE ECONOMIST
Great Britain
December 23, 1961

LUNG CANCER

Are You Giving Cigarettes?

THE chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health has some forthright things to say about lung cancer in his annual report (Cmd 1550, 13s.). In 1960, 22,000 people died from it (18,882 men and 3,118 women), and the chart shows how the relative importance of lung cancer and respiratory tuberculosis as causes of death in men has altered since 1940. In that year, before the



advent of chemotherapy, which has been so successful in reducing the mortality of tuberculosis, the disease's high death rate was regarded as a grave national problem. The lung cancer death rate is now higher than the tuberculosis rate twenty years ago. And the British public hardly bats an eyelid.

The only not actually discouraging figure given in the report is that deaths from lung cancer in men increased last year, compared with 1959, by a mere 700—the smallest percentage increase since 1950. On the other hand, the percentage increase in the deaths of women was higher than the average of the last twenty years. But the most striking facts to which the report draws attention come from the medical officer of health for Jersey. The island has the highest lung cancer death rate for men in the world and an exceptionally high rate for women. There is no problem of air pollution there. But the amount of tobacco smoked per head is the highest in the world; and in the years 1957-59 no case of lung cancer was recorded in a non-smoker.

No one claims that heavy smoking is the sole cause of lung cancer; air pollution is almost certainly another cause in Britain, as it is a cause of the high death rate from bronchitis. But no one, equally, after reading this report, can seriously maintain that smoking is not an important cause of cancer. It is strange that people who are so worried about fall-out that they will martyr themselves to ban the bomb will yet think nothing of offering their children cigarettes.

NEW YORK POST
New York, New York
December 13, 1961

British Report Links Cancer And Smoking

London, Dec. 13 (Reuters)—Jersey, vacation island in the English Channel, has the world's highest male lung cancer death rate—and Jersey people smoke more per head than anyone else—it was reported today.

Dr. G. E. Godber, the British Health Ministry's chief medical officer, reported these facts in his first annual report.

"In Jersey there is no air pollution problem, and no case of lung cancer was recorded in a non-smoker during the years 1957-1959," Godber said.

"The epidemic of cancer of the lung pursues a predictable course in men with an increase which can only be arrested in the next few years by a general change in smoking habits—in fact by stopping or markedly reducing the excessive smoking of cigarettes," Godber