

responsibilities for studying the T.M.S.C. and F.I.R.C. programmes and expressing their opinions. It has also been agreed by the Board that we shall keep confidential to ourselves any items of research on health matters with which such Companies are personally associated but which they do not wish passed on to T.M.S.C. or to F.I.R.C., although it is hoped that they will in the main be influenced by the Board's policy.

The central fact in this subject is that in sufficient doses tobacco condensate acts as a carcinogen when painted on the backs of mice, or when injected subcutaneously into rats. In sufficient dose it also acts as a co-carcinogen in mouse painting tests. On present evidence the amount of the known carcinogens in smoke are insufficient to make it plausible that these experiments could be extrapolated to support the view that smoking is harmful to human beings, but at least they serve to indicate a group of substances which require intense investigation and which, even if we do not know why, we would be pleased to see less of.

This kind of view is quite generally held, but its starting point accepts the equivalence of chemically manipulated, old stored condensate with fresh smoke aerosol only a fraction of a second old, and this may not be at all the case.

It might appear that the right line was to get animals to breathe smoke aerosol, but such experiments have not yet been productive and to date no conclusive results have been obtained in this way. Therefore, in view of the great amount of work already carried out using old stored condensate F.M.S.C. decided it would be best to make a partial attack on this crucial problem by investigating whether the

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