

and to develop lung cancer. "It is difficult to see how this can explain the rapid rise in lung cancer mortality which has occurred in the last few decades and more difficult still to perceive in this context an explanation for the reduction in mortality which occurs among smokers who have given up cigarettes; such gymnastics amongst genotypes do not appear hitherto to have been observed in any other field."

The Joint Tuberculosis Council concludes its report by recommending particular attention to the discouragement of smoking by the young. This seems to be the main field in which worthwhile results seem possible, but there is little evidence that the problem is being taken seriously so far as action is concerned.

REFERENCES

1. Chronic Bronchitis in General Practice. A Special Issue of the North-west England Faculty Journal of the College of General Practitioners. 1960.
2. Smoking and Chest Diseases—Report of the Joint Tuberculosis Council of Great Britain. *Tubercle* (August, 1960) 41, 290.

ACCIDENT AND CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS

The problem of the treatment of accidents is very much to the fore just now. Two reports sponsored by The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust have recently been published: from Aberdeen comes a study of home accidents by Dr Ian Macqueen¹ and from London a report of a committee under the chairmanship of Dr John Fry². Two other committees are still collecting evidence; the College has reported to The Accident Services Review Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons and a report on similar lines is being sent to the Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Harry Platt.

In the proceedings of the symposium on accidents which was held at Birmingham and is published as a supplement to this *Journal*, the need for adequate supervision of casualty departments was stressed by many speakers and this need is recognized in the College's Memorandum of Evidence in which, as in The Nuffield report on the casualty services, the use of specially interested general practitioners is urged so as to lessen the difficulties created by lack of properly trained and experienced medical staff.

REFERENCES

1. Macqueen, Ian. (1960), *A Study of Home Accidents in Aberdeen: An investigation by The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust*. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh and London.
2. Fry, John. (1960), *Casualty Services and their Setting: A Study in Medical Care*. Published for The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust by the Oxford University Press, London.