Dear Mr. Todd,

Thanks for your letter of the 17th. I am not really anxious about what Communist propaganda may say.

I received the collection of papers, chiefly by Hill and Doll, most of which I had seen. There are a good many statements of which one would like to know whether they have any factual basis, and if so over what part of the population field, e.g. it is stated without qualification that cigarette smokers smoke more tobacco than pipe smokers. I think this statement is very questionable as many pipe smokers smoke four to seven ounces a week, or did so long as they could afford it. However, I do not know, short of some simple sample survey method, how the fact could be ascertained.

A similar fallacy seems involved when graphs are drawn showing the total increase of cancer in the lung (this increase being very predominantly in men), with the total increase of tobacco consumption in the country, in which, over the relevant period, it is very questionable if the male consumption per head has
increased at all, though the number of adult males has, of course, somewhat increased. It is in their attempts to dispose of such awkward facts as these that Doll and Hill show themselves at their weakest, but I believe these questions are better approached not forensically, but with a view to experimental ascertainment.

Sincerely yours,