

MRC

Medical Research Council
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reference

June 1971

Dear Dr. Oltersdorf,

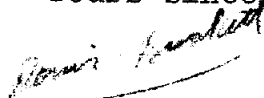
You must have been wondering to what purpose were the intestinal transit time studies you so kindly undertook at my request.

These have in fact proved exceedingly valuable, and variations in intestinal delay or hurry are believed to be related to the fibre content of food. Long transit times, associated with constipation, are probably almost entirely responsible for diverticular disease and appendicitis, both believed to be caused by the increased intra-lumen pressures associated with low residue foods. Intestinal hold-up is believed also to play a part in the causation of bowel cancer.

A paper relating bowel cancer to diet which was delivered at a conference in California in January will shortly be appearing in "Cancer" and I will send a copy to you when these are available. Another paper by Mr. Neil Painter FRCS, and myself, on the relationship between diverticular disease and diet will soon be appearing in the British Medical Journal and you will also receive a copy of this.

I hope to embark on a more detailed paper relating diet to intestinal content and behaviour with the cooperation of Dr. Walker of Johannesburg, who has done much of the pioneer work on intestinal transit studies, and of Mr. Painter of diverticular disease fame. Your assistance will, of course, be gratefully acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,



Denis P. Burkitt