

"It contains a number of valuable recommendations about the direction future research in this field should take. It also makes recommendations about providing information on the use of the drugs to the medical profession and to the public, and advice to the Food and Drug Directorate about testing the products before they are marketed."

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Other major points made by the committee were:

There is no evidence of any incidence of pre-malignant change in the uterine cervix directly attributable to birth-control pills.

No significant increase in the incidence of breast cancer has yet been detected, though for over 25 years concern has been voiced that clinical use of estrogens may induce the disease in women. Concern has naturally heightened since the introduction of oral contraceptives.

The committee concludes that there is no firm evidence to suggest any relation between genital and breast carcinoma and oral contraceptives.

Of the 28 recommendations in the report, three are general, 13 concern pre-marketing testing, post-marketing surveillance, pharmaceutical advertising and information to the professions and the public. Twelve recommendations deal with studies in epidemiologic, haematologic and endocrine fields.

Much of the committee's discussion and study dealt with the real and potential hazards of oral contraceptives. A relation between thromboembolic disorders and the use of oral contraceptives has been established, with evidence suggesting the level of estrogen in combinations as a possible major factor in determining the risk of thromboembolism. The committee recommended further investigation of the relation and stated that, whenever possible, physicians should be advised to prescribe a preparation containing not more than 50 micrograms of ethinyl estradiol or mestranol.

The committee of seven medical specialists from across Canada was convened to advise the Food and Drug Directorate of the federal Health Department on all aspects of the safety and efficacy of all oral contraceptives marketed in Canada.

REBATE PERIOD EXTENDED
Among the recommendations approved by the Government was extension for the calendar year 1971 of the current rebate system of paying to Commonwealth Caribbean countries amounts of duty collected on sugar imported from them. This decision will be viewed at such time as the Government considers the Tariff Board report on sugar, expected in 1971. With the introduction of an International Sugar Agreement in 1969, it had been the policy of the Canadian Government to make certain payments to the sugar producing countries in the form of rebates. This policy was based on the fact that the sugar industry had been operating at a loss for many years. The Government decided to extend the rebate system for 1971. The rebate system was extended for 1971. The rebate system was extended for 1971.