Plate 122 Tobacco Volatiles  Cigarette testing. Cigarettes being tested for the nicotine and tar content of their smoke during either medical research or as part of quality control in the tobacco industry. The cigarettes are being held vertically and having air sucked through them into the tubes in which their butts (brown) have been placed. The air will be analysed for its tar and nicotine content. Nicotine acts as a stimulant on the central nervous system and is the chemical that causes cigarette addiction. The tar is one of the numerous toxic by-products released by the burning of the cigarette. (With permission from Science Photo Library.)