Some can certainly be classified as highly dangerous, others as of medium effectiveness, while the rest can be grouped according to their lower activity. Maybe a simple color code on the container can provide sufficient warning. The label should provide information on volatility, solubility, and half-life under the conditions of treatments commonly used. Instructions for methods of safe disposal should also be included. None of these compounds should be shipped in single-walled glass containers, and efforts should be made to employ vessels which do not overturn easily when opened.

It takes months to reveal the consequences of human contamination with carcinogens, and several generations are needed for genetic damages to surface after exposure to mutagens in organisms with a breeding system similar to that of man. Since the majority of the research laboratories are associated with schools, the inexperienced, young, and most susceptible persons have the highest chance for dangerous exposure. Some of the hazards could be effectively minimized by the adoption of the simple and inexpensive measures suggested here.

No new legislative or governmental actions are needed; only the regulations of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act should be extended to a number of old and new chemicals and perhaps expanded. The user institutions should adapt and adopt rules for handling carcinogens and mutagens similar to those in existence for radioactive compounds.

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Errors in Telegraphed Texts

With respect to my summary of the work of Katz and his colleagues, in the issue of 23 October which contained the article on the Nobel prizewinners (p. 423), readers will recognize easily that José del Castillo's name came out misspelled and that Merter Lectures are really the Herter Lectures, but many will not know that a quantum of acetylcholine probably contains something like 10^4 molecules rather than 104.

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