ents who can afford the expense of college and graduate school. The percentage of minority applicants to graduate schools whose parents can afford to finance graduate education is far less than that of white applicants. While there are some loan programs, they are particularly unattractive to members of minority groups from impoverished backgrounds. The more attractive financial prospects of a career in medicine mean that if the same debts must be incurred in training for a career as a physician or as a biomedical researcher, the former will more often be the preferred choice.

Currently the major support for access to research careers by minority students in graduate school is being provided by private foundations. We find it hard to understand why the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is doing so little to support graduate training of minority applicants when everyone agrees that there is a shortage of such individuals.

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Labor-Intensive Production

In his editorial "Corporations and the less developed countries" (30 Nov. 1973, p. 873), Philip H. Abelson mentions an IBM typewriter plant in Bogotá, Columbia, that relies on labor-intensive production techniques as an example of increased corporate responsiveness to the desires of the host countries. I suggest that an additional, more telling, incentive is at play—corporate self-interest.

This conclusion comes from my observation of a similar project under development in Bombay, India—an industrial estate near the international airport that will deal exclusively with the assembly of electronic equipment. Sponsored by the semigovernmental Trade Development Authority, the estate will house predominantly non-Indian concerns. It is to be a free trade zone, devoted exclusively to export production. Components will be flown in and assembled at the estate, and the finished product will be flown out again. The production process is highly labor-intensive. The value added in India will amount to more than 50 percent of the product's final cost. The project will provide employment for some 45,000 people.

In this case, labor-intensive techniques are being developed, not because of any benevolent feelings on the part of employers, but because labor-intensive techniques are profitable. Because the wage rates in India are low, it is more profitable to have the electronic equipment assembled by hand in India than to use a capital-intensive (or labor-intensive) technology in a developed country. The companies get a cheaper product; India gets the employment.

Such mutual benefit is likely to provide a more reliable and significant binding cement between the multinational corporations and the less developed countries than is corporate benevolence.

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Virus Research

The provocative report "Microbiology: Hazardous profession faces new uncertainties" by Nicholas Wade (News and Comment, 9 Nov. 1973, p. 566) raises important questions, all of which deserve consideration and discussion. In general, a distinction should be made between the primary hazards to which the scientist is exposed and the potential of secondary hazards to the public at large. Most discussions of the latter tend to ignore the biologic constraints by which infectious disease patterns are stabilized by a kind of "environmental homeostasis." Sulkin and Pike's extensive reviews of laboratory-acquired infection (*1*) fail to document the secondary spread of agents initially alien to man (for example, louping ill and Newcastle disease viruses) or intrinsically pathogenic for man, but acquired by an unnatural route in the absence of the natural vector (for example, Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus).

Wade attributes to those in "virologic circles" a concern that "the ability to genetically manipulate flu viruses could lead to a new combination that might escape from the laboratory, by infecting an employee, say, and spread to the population at large." He then quotes Wallace Rowe of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases as saying, "This could recreate the conditions for an influenza pandemic like that of 1918." Rowe voices