

makers though it may be, tumors do not bear tags identifying their cause or causes. However, in an attempt to quantify a risk, the National Academy of Sciences' report on saccharin cites a *maximum* figure of 3640 cases of cancer per year due to that chemical (10). Estimates have not been made for other food additives. Considering the various known and suspected carcinogens in our food supply, I think my figure of "a maximum of 10,000 to 20,000" deaths per year (approximately 1/2 to 1 percent of all deaths) was reasonable and, in the context, highlighted that (i) food additives cause a certain amount of illness and death, but a small amount compared to dietary fat, alcohol, and smoking; and (ii) deaths due to food additives are largely unnecessary because harmful additives are usually easily controlled.

Reports in the media that a chemical causes cancer often do lead to public concern. It is indeed unfortunate that people have to be troubled about chemicals that pose only a slight risk to a given individual. In fact, regulatory agencies were set up, in part, to save people the trouble of worrying about each and every little hazard. The agencies have a legal responsibility to restrict the use of chemicals that pose miniscule hazards to individuals, but significant dangers to the population as a whole. It is unfortunate that massive public pressure has been the only effective mechanism for overcoming bureaucratic lethargy and industrial opposition to controlling environmental hazards (11).

MICHAEL F. JACOBSON

Center for Science in the Public
Interest, Washington, D.C. 20009

References

1. Philadelphia *Bulletin*, 21 October 1979, p. 10.
2. M. Benarde, *The Chemicals We Eat* (American Heritage, New York, 1971).
3. P. M. Newberne, *Science* **204**, 1079 (1979).
4. *Carcinogenesis Technical Report Series No. 150* (National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., 1979).
5. J. D. Stokes and C. L. Scudder, *Dev. Psychobiol.* **7**, 343 (1974).
6. "Life-time Carcinogenesis Study in the ICR Swiss Mouse" (Final Report, Project No. 165-150, Hazleton Laboratories, submitted to the Bureau of Foods, Washington, D.C., 1977).
7. T. J. Sobotka, *Proceedings of the National Institute of Mental Health Workshop on the Hyperkinetic Behavior Syndrome* (NIMH, Washington, D.C., 1978), p. 39.
8. P. E. Palm et al., *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* **44**, 1 (1978); I. Borlee, *Louvain Med.* **97**, 279 (1978).
9. *Environmental Contaminants in Food* (Office of Technology Assessment, Washington, D.C., 1979).
10. *Saccharin and Its Impurities* (Panel I) (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1978).
11. S. Epstein, *The Politics of Cancer* (Doubleday, New York, 1979).

Erratum: In the article "Park is sought to save Indian tribe in Brazil" (News and Comment, 7 Dec. 1979, p. 1160), the University of Pennsylvania is given as the affiliation of Napoleon Chagnon. This is not correct. Chagnon is a member of the faculty of Pennsylvania State University.

We're not permitted to say this is today's most Versatile stereo- microscope



Wild M-5A Stereomicroscope. Because of high resolving power, ample working distance, large field coverage, powerful adjustable lamps and a complete range of accessories, we think you'll say it for us.

The M-5A is an improved M-5. Magnification range is 1.4x to 250x, producing exceptionally crisp images. New focusing and power changing mechanisms are smooth-working and jam-free. A protective steel hood makes it an ideal traveling companion.

Options

BEAMSPLITTER PHOTOTUBE: Easily inserted to convert the binocular unit into a trinocular instrument to support a camera, as shown.

DOUBLE IRIS DIAPHRAGM: Depth of field is adjustable at any given power for critical dissecting and micro-manipulation.

CAMERA LUCIDA: Attaches to make pencil tracing fast and easy.

HORIZONTAL TAKEOFF TUBE: Beamsplitter permits accurate picture taking compatibility with movie cameras and CCTV systems.

THERE'S MUCH MORE TO THE M-5A. Ask for brochure.

WILD WILD HEERBRUGG
HEERBRUGG INSTRUMENTS, INC.

FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK 11735 • 516-293-7400

Wild Of Canada, Ltd. 881 Lady Ellen Pl., Ottawa 3, Ont.

Wild Of Mexico, Comercial Ultramar Sa, Colima 411, Mexico 6, D.F.