

THE PESTICIDE PROBLEM

"The introduction of pesticides to the agricultural market in ever increasing chemical complexity, quantity, and numbers has created a widespread interest in the possible dangers of consuming foods treated with these chemicals. By and large they are poisons, and injury can be expected when the dose ingested is excessive. Our major pharmacologic problem, however, is not the determination of the rather crude end point represented by death, but rather an evaluation of the continued use of the agricultural products treated with normal amounts of the pesticide. This hazard is dependent more specifically on the injury produced by ingestion of small amounts over long periods of time. We cannot compress into a few months an experiment dealing with a lifetime process. Our greatest problem therefore arises from the fact that evidences of safety must be obtained from the feeding of laboratory animals over their life span and then observing the effects produced by the chemical."

—O. GARTH FITZHUGH
in *Antibiotics and Chemotherapy*
p. 88, Feb. 1956