

replicates. This would lead to diseases of longer duration because the body's defences would have to learn to recognize each of the various forms of the new virus" (page 23).

"Similarly, many diagnostic methods are based on the detection of certain sites on a disease organism's surface. Altering these sites could render a BW agent "invisible," thereby frustrating appropriate detection and treatment" (page 23).

- "Unlimited vaccine development and new biodetection abilities. A nation probably would not use a BW agent unless it could protect its own people from infection.[.....] Just as they have become tools to thwart vaccines, [monoclonal antibodies] MCA and rDNA technologies have revolutionized vaccine research. Under modern bioprocess methods vaccines are simple to mass-produce, and in the foreseeable future they will be created for nearly all known potential BW agents. Meanwhile, MCA technology can detect the presence of biological agents in the environment with a sensitivity unthinkable a decade ago. These developments may reduce an aggressor's fears of backfire and retaliation" (page 23).
- "Increased virulence. Disease symptoms often stem directly from toxins secreted by a pathogen. Anthrax toxin, for example, is the active ingredient of the anthrax bacterium. The genes that regulate toxin production may be manipulated to enhance an organism's virulence. The result would be a more powerful, faster-acting, and invasive weapon, one that would infect and kill more reliably" (page 23).