

chemicals to people who are properly trained and equipped for the work. When necessary, medical supervision of workers may be required, and there are now specific laboratory tests that permit measurement and, therefore, regulation of occupational exposure to many pesticides. In many instances, there are also antidotes and other methods of treatment that can be used with great benefit if poisoning does occur.

Conclusion

The very existence of highly active compounds poses potential and often real problems. Our primary protection is based on the extensive animal experiments required under present law. However, ultimate assurance about human safety of a particular compound must come from study of people with intensive and prolonged exposure. Such studies should give adequate warning of even the slightest danger to people in the general population exposed to traces of the same compounds. Much research remains to be done. The professional toxicologist must stay alert to danger, no matter how remote. But the time has passed when it may be usefully said that little is known about the toxicity of pesticides, or that no legal control of their use exists, or that a wide variety of illnesses from which mankind has suffered for generations are now caused by the newer pesticides.

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