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When toxicologists determine the safe dose of a chemical, they do so by characterizing its dose-response relationship, that is, how the change or degree of harm it induces varies with the different amounts present. They then determine the safe dose and how great a safety factor they should set. Generally there are doses at which the

relationship is linear, but there are arguments about whether there is a threshold dose below which the chemical has no effect, or whether even one molecule induces a damaging effect, even if too small to be detectable, and the public has been led to believe that there is no safe level of exposure to many toxic agents, especially to carcinogens like radiation or dioxins. In fact it depends upon the mode of action of the substance in question. Biochemists and pharmacologists know that the dose response to many compounds, e.g. to sex hormones, opioids, antibiotics, anti-viral agents and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs is U-shaped, in that small amounts have a stimulatory (or 'good') effect and large amounts are inhibitory (or bad). Ionizing radiation at low doses cures cancer, though higher doses induce cancer. Toxicologists now recognize that the same is true for many environmental chemicals regarded as poisons or as carcinogenic, in that very small amounts of arsenic, cadmium, mercuric chloride, aluminium or methanol for example, at doses below those which cause detectable damage are actually beneficial. However, the subject arouses controversy.

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# CHAPTER FOUR

I. Yet there are many examples of food on sale in the shops that has a GM content, or in the production of which genetic modification has been used. Thus, cheese sold as vegetarian cheese is made using the

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enzyme chymosin, which is obtained from genetically modified micro-organisms instead of from calves' stomachs. Several food products contain soya from the genetically modified crop and many foods contain GM colourings, processing aids, vitamins and flavours. From April 2004 all except the processing aids have to be labelled if the amount of GM material exceeds 0.9 per cent of the total. Much livestock, hence meat, has been fed GM soya. In 2002–2003, a total of 36.5 million tonnes of soya (as beans or meal) was imported into Europe, of which about two-thirds was probably genetically modified. It is fed to livestock as a high-protein source that replaces the meat and bonemeal that was banned after the advent of BSE.

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- 31. I. Castles and D. Henderson (2003). Economics, Emission Scenarios and the Work of the IPCC, *Energy and the environment*, 14 (4), pp. 415–35.
- 32. *Ibid.*, pp. 425-7.
- 33. The Castles-Henderson critique is not confined to the SRES: it extends to the treatment of economic issues in the IPCC process generally. The IPCC's official response to their criticisms and proposals, in the form of a dismissive press release of December 2003, does not measure up to professional standards.

- 34. Robert Ehrlich (2003). 8 Preposterous Propositions. Princeton and Oxford, p. 170. This book contains a useful summary of the main arguments on climate change, at pp. 138–87.
- 35. Even the link between a rise in global temperatures and a rise in sea levels is not beyond question. To offset the melting of glaciers and the thermal expansion of the oceans, a warmer world would probably mean more precipitation, more snow in Arctic regions, locking up more moisture, which would be removed from the oceans and would therefore lower sea levels. On the other hand, the current rise in sea levels is about twice what global warming levels would predict.
- 36. Scientific American, January, 2002.
- 37. One of these investigators, who had 'devoted his life to the subject', a leader of the anti-Lomborg inquisition, was Stephen Schneider. He had in fact devoted part of his earlier life to the advocacy of the view that we face a new ice age. In a paper written in the early 1970s, he argued that a vast increase in carbon dioxide emissions would have little warming effect, whereas the increase of aerosols in the atmosphere could well trigger an ice age. He continued to warn about a coming ice age until about 1978.
- 38. Philip Stott, New Scientist, 20 September, 2003.
- 39. S. Pimm and J. Harvey (2001). No need to worry about the future. *Nature*, **414**, 149.
- 40. Richard Stone in *Policy Summer*, Lomborg Review, 14 February, 2002.
- 41. Pimm and Harvey, op. cit.
- 42. M. Grubb, *Science*, **294**, 9 November, 2001, p. 1285.
- 43. A. Turner, 'Bjorn Again', Prospect, May, 2002, p. 28.
- 44. www.lomborg.org
- 45. Spectator, 23 February, 2002.
- 46. Rapid worldwide depletion of predatory fish communities. R. A. Myers and B. Worm, *Nature* 2003, Vol. 423, pp. 280–3.
- 47. 2003 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. www.redlist.org. Downloaded 15 January, 2004.
- 48. Robert May, February 2002. 'Biological diversity in a crowded world: Past, present and future', Blue Planet Prize, Asahi Glass Foundation, Tokyo.
- 49. Lomborg, op. cit., pp. 255-6.
- 50. N. Myers and F. Lanting (1999). International Wildlife, 29 (2), 30-9.
- 51. C. D. Thomas, A. Cameron, R. E. Green, M. Bakkenes, L. J. Beaumont,

- Y. C. Collingham, B. F. N. Erasmus, M. F. De Siqueira, A. Grainger, L. Hannah, L. Hughes, B. Huntley, A. S. Van Jaarsveld, G. F. Midgley, L. Miles, M. A. Ortega-Huerta, A. T. Peterson, O. L. Phillips and S. E. Williams (2004). Extinction risk from climate change. *Nature*, 427, pp. 145–8. For a note of caution about the interpretation of these figures, see a letter from R. J. Ladle, P. Jepson, M. B. Araújo and R. J. Whittaker, *Dangers of crying wolf over risk of extinctions, Nature* 428.
- 52. In his book *The Population Bomb*, published in 1968—admittedly a long time ago—Paul Ehrlich argued that India was a hopeless case, a country which could never feed its hungry, that there was no point in the rest of the world sending it aid.
- 53. www.lomborg.org
- 54. Turner, op. cit., p. 335.
- 55. Spowers, op. cit., p. 110. It is there claimed that this figure is rising at 7 per cent per year. A report in *The Guardian* of 5 March, 2004, gives a figure of 8 million.
- *56.* See Prologue pp. 6–7.
- 57. Jay Byrne, 'Tactics and Tips', September, 2003, AgBioView, www.agbioworld.org

## CHAPTER SEVEN

- I. British Medical Journal (2003). 327, p. 694.
- 2. House of Lords, Science and Society, 2000, p. 22, para. 2.56.
- 3. Helene Guldberg, Spiked Online, 1 July, 2003.
- 4. The Lancet (2000). 356, p. 265. This is a less qualified version of the Wingspread statement produced by a gathering of scientists, philosophers, lawyers and environmental activists in the United States in 1998, in which the final words 'not fully established scientifically' were used. See Guldberg, op. cit. In practice the qualification 'fully' tends to be left out.
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- 6. Ibid., p. 31.
- 7. *Ibid.*, pp. 139–40.
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- 9. EEA report, p. 50.

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- и. *Ibid.*, pp. 26–32.
- 12. Z. Jaworowski, Radiation Folly in *Environment and Health, Myths and Realities*, ed Okonski and Morris, International Policy Network, 2004.
- 13. An Introduction to Radiation Hormesis, S.M. Javad Mortazavi, www.angelfire.com/mo/radioadaptive/inthorm.html
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- 22. Nature (2002) 416, p. 123.
- 23. Ray Tallis, The enemies of hope, p. 404, Macmillan, 1997.
- 24. Phillips, The BSE Inquiry, 2000, The Stationery Office.
- 25. Ibid., Vol. 1, p. 266.
- 26. J. C. Hanekamp *et al*, Chloramphenicol, food safety and precautionary thinking in Europe, *Environmental Liability*, 11, 2003, 6 pp. 209–21.
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- 30. Quoted from Ronald Bailey in Guldberg, op. cit.
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- 32. Henry Miller and Gregory Conko, Policy Review no. 107.
- 33. John Kay (2003). The truth about markets, p. 174, Allen Lane.
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- 35. Frank Furedi, Spiked Politics, 15 March, 2002.
- 36. S. Wesseley, Psychological, social and media influences on the experience of somatic symptoms, September, 1997, quoted in B. Durodié

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## CHAPTER NINE

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- 31. Richard Tomkins, Financial Times, 6 June, 2003.
- 32. For this description, I am indebted to Dennis Dutton, who teaches philosophy at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.
- 33. John Vidal, *The Guardian*, 11 November, 2002.
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- 41. *Ibid.*, p. 8.
- 42. Hutton, op. cit., p. 26.

### CHAPTER TEN

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- 4. Thomas Patterson, Out of Order, quoted in John Lloyd, *Prospect*, October, 2002, p. 49.
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- of America, and as a rather unconvincing discussion of the philosophy of Sophism and Zen. The most interesting part for me was about motorcycle maintenance. It altered my attitude towards engines. Instead of reacting with fury when the outboard on my dinghy did not work, which made me want to throw it overboard, I realized there was an intellectual problem capable of intelligent solution even by those with limited technical knowledge like myself.
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- 23. Jason Burke (2003). *Al-Qaeda*, p. 14, Tauris.

- 24. Douglas Adams, quoted in Richard Dawkins (2003). *A devil's chaplain*, p. 156, Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
- 25. The Guardian, 25 November, 2002.
- 26. Victoria Clark 'The Christian Zionists', Prospect, July, 2003, p. 54.
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- 30. House of Lords, Official Report, 2002, Vol. 621, col. 35-6.
- 31. Sokal and Bricmont, op. cit., p. 191.
- 32. Bernard Lewis (2002). What went wrong? The clash between Islam and modernity in the Middle East. p. 174, Penguin.
- 33. Ibid., p. 8.
- 34. The Economist, Special Survey of Islam, 13 September, 2003, p. 6.
- 35. Vicenzo Oliveti (2003). Terror's Source, p. 10ff., Amadeus.
- 36. Ibid., p. 5.
- 37. *Ibid.*, p. 7.
- 38. Bernard Lewis, op. cit., p. 51.
- 39. *Ibid.*, p. 113.
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