

December 22, 1969

Dr. Robert Jones, M.D.
Department of Biochemistry
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London, W.C.2
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Dear Dr. Jones:

I hope you will excuse my rather long delay in sending you the enclosed bibliography on CS. I am afraid there isn't much there regarding the chemistry of the compound that you do not already know. The reason for expecting the compound to be a rather strong alkylating agent is that the double bonded carbon adjacent to the aromatic ring should be quite deficient in electrons and therefore very susceptible to nucleophilic attack.

A reference not included in the bibliography is a paper by Gal, Fung, and Greenberg, Cancer Research 12, 565-572, (1952). They report that only the ortho and not the meta or para substituted aromatic nitriles are highly irritating.

A colleague of mine, Dr. Thomas Wegmann, is conducting a small-scale experiment to see if intravenous CS damages the chromosomes of mice. I shall ask him to let you know of the results as soon as they are available. Meanwhile, we await your results on carcinogenesis with great interest.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson

MM:ls
Encl.