To a fair section of the non-farming public, it conjures up the horros so graphically described in Mrs Harrison’s Animal Machines.

For all its exaggerations and misreadings of evidence, this book, like Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring, started fresh thinking among those who had been inclined to take new techniques for granted.

Farm chemicals also came under review, as the result of investigations made during the previous year, and whole groups were withdrawn from general use. Ironically enough the one which caused the largest public anxiety was one that had hardly been used on farms at all.