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**Melvin Calvin For. Mem. RS,** Nobel Laureate 1961, was a Member of the ISR Editorial Board from 1978 until he died in 1997. He was Professor of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, where I visited him. He received the National Medal of Science from President Bush in October 1989. For his pioneering work on photosynthesis using carbon 14, he had received the Nobel Prize 28 years earlier, elucidating the many steps of carbon during photosynthesis, now called the 'Calvin Cycle' in his honour. *Courtesy UC Berkeley.*

This was the first issue of ISR almost entirely devoted to a single subject and published in September 1978. It was suggested by Dr Tom Lambo, a Nigerian and the Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation, as well as a Member of my Editorial Board. I had visited him in Geneva, discussed the idea with him and invited a number of his colleagues to contribute.

As usual, I wrote the first Editorial, attacking an often quoted statement that 'small is beautiful and multinational is bad' in relation to World Health. As far as I knew, the first precept had never been applied to the size of the medical research effort, and as far as drugs were concerned, those produced by multinational companies had never been selectively refused by any patient. An organised attack on global trade and industry came only in 1999 in Seattle.

My editorial was followed by Dr Halfdan Mahler's, the Director-General of WHO, writing about "World Health is Indivisible". He outlined a blueprint as 'the unusual step of appealing directly to the political leaders of the world' as he put it. He pleaded for primary health care, giving priority to proper nutrition, safe drinking water, a healthy environment and the eradication of communicable diseases, particularly in the developing countries.

The main contributions were varied in contents and ranged widely from good health communications, water supply, research on birth control technology and the new mental health programme of WHO, to chemicals and health, ecology and vector control, research and training in tropical diseases, cardiovascular diseases and finally the role of WHO in international drug control. Each article was written by the WHO expert responsible for the subject and the whole issue thus represented a very authoritative and international contribution, abstracting the most up-to-date state of nearly all medical knowledge.

Another important article in this issue was concerned with "Chemistry, Population, Resources" by Melvin Calvin of Berkeley, a Member of my Board and a Nobel Laureate, who pleaded that the growing of hydrocarbon producing plants in arid or semi-arid regions, where they would not compete with food production, could produce chemical energy, only slightly more expensive than fossil energy from oil. The subject of photosynthesis as a renewable energy source had been his main research subject for over 20 years.

The last page of the issue was a tribute to "Sir Humphry Davy—Poet" celebrating in 1978 the Bicentenary of his birth. Sir George Porter, also a member of the Board and a Nobel Laureate, had arranged a Symposium for this purpose at the Royal Institution, and he quoted two poems in his short contribution.