Louis Frederick Fieser (b. 1899), Sheldon Emery Professor of Organic Chemistry, Harvard University, is an important pioneer in the synthesis of carcinogenic hydrocarbons. He synthesized methylcholanthrene in 1935, introduced many carcinogenic methyl-substituted benzantracene derivatives, elucidated the chemical reactivity of the polycyclic compounds, introduced new reactions in steroid synthesis, and synthesized vitamin K and antimalarial naphthoquinones. His several textbooks on general organic and steroid chemistry have been landmarks for students and investigators. An inveterate cigarette smoker, he served on the U. S. Surgeon General’s Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health and, in 1965, underwent lung surgery for carcinoma. He described his experiences in “The Story of an Ex-Smoker,” Reader’s Digest, April, 1966.

We are thankful to Dr. A. M. Seligman for his assistance and for the methylcholanthrene illustration (constructed from models developed by L. F. Fieser. Extensions in the Use of Plastic Tetrahedral Models. J. Chem. Educ., 42: 408-412, 1965).