

FOREWORD

Until a few years ago there was no systematic or unified policy with regard to the publication of reports and papers prepared by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (I.U.P.A.C.) through its Commissions, Sections and Divisions. The Nomenclature rules for different branches of chemistry, drawn up and revised from time to time, after careful consideration, by the co-operative effort of experts in different countries, were satisfactorily publicized through scientific journals and societies in different member countries. On the other hand, there was often a feeling of dissatisfaction that many other important Commission reports and standardization procedures failed to receive a sufficiently wide distribution and recognition. The difficulties have increased with the growth of chemistry and as the activities of the Union have widened in range. The view has often been expressed that it would be more satisfactory if all the scientific work of the Union could be collected for reference in one publication.

At the Paris meeting of 1957, a Publications Committee was set up to examine more efficient ways of publishing and disseminating the Union's work. Subsequently a commercial publisher was appointed and during the past three years a number of reports have been issued with encouraging success. At Munich in 1959 the Council of I.U.P.A.C. took a further step to bring all the publications together in a journal of its own and the Publications Committee has therefore been reinforced by the formation of an Editorial Advisory Board, members of which are listed on the inside front cover. In addition to I.U.P.A.C. publications, the new journal will also carry, when appropriate, reports of meetings and symposia held under the aegis of the International Council of Scientific Unions (I.C.S.U.).

The policy of including in one journal a number of reports dealing with very different aspects of chemistry may at first sight be open to question. However, any such objection is fully answered by the arrangement which has been made for separate issues and the sale of reprints, in pamphlet or book form, as appropriate, of each particular article, report or symposium. If the present plan proves successful it should lead to a wider appreciation of the Union's activities and of the work carried out by authors of reports prepared under its auspices. In addition other advantages already set out in the Union's bulletins should accrue both to the Union and to individual scientists. The Union will retain the copyright of all material included in the journal but, as in the recent past, arrangements may be made with the publisher for the reprinting of certain articles elsewhere if this is requested, often without a royalty being charged to the national society or organization concerned. A document setting out other details of policy was recently issued to all officers of Sections, Divisions and

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Commissions, and is available for all who may be concerned in the future. A brief account of the organization and functions of I.U.P.A.C. is given in the pages following this foreword.

Any comments or criticisms which will help the Editorial Advisory Board in their effort to achieve the aims of the new journal will be welcomed.

H. W. THOMPSON

Chairman, Editorial Advisory Board

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