

## Notes and News

*Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England).*

### European Crystallographic Committee

The European crystallographers, through the European Crystallographic Committee, invite colleagues in developing countries to join in co-operation schemes. The purpose of the co-operation is to exchange information, teaching material and staff, to share facilities such as data collecting apparatus, to assist potential buyers of equipment to contact the main suppliers and to set up joint research programmes.

Active crystallographers and/or departments with crystallography groups, who are interested in such a co-operation scheme are invited to contact either Professor Dr D. Feil, Chemical Physics Laboratory, Twente University of Technology, P.O. Box 217, Enschede, The Netherlands or the President of the European Crystallographic Committee, Dr O. Kennard, University Chemical Laboratory, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW, England.

### *Status and Future Potential of Crystallography*

An in-depth review of the status and further potential of crystallography in the USA has been produced by the US National Research Council in the form of a 74-page report prepared by the US National Committee on Crystallography. The report is based on the proceedings of a two-day conference sponsored by the National Committee and held in February 1975 and on the results of a postal survey.

One objective of the report is to point out the vitality and extensive range of crystallographic studies. This is done by emphasizing the broad relationship of crystallography to numerous other scientific disciplines, by describing its inherent diversity of subject matter for experimental and theoretical investigation, and by outlining numerous promising areas for future research. Recent advances in analytical capabilities have cleared the way for more effective and far-reaching applications.

The areas considered in the report are biological macromolecules, chemical crystallography, diffraction physics, earth sciences, and materials research. In addition, there are parts devoted to the results of the chemical crystallography

questionnaires, the teaching of crystallography, and a brief discussion of crystallographic computing.

A limited number of copies of *Status and Future Potential of Crystallography* are available from the Office of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20418, USA.

### International Conference to Mark the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Electron Diffraction

This conference will be held at the Imperial College, London, 19–21 September 1977. It is intended to cover all aspects of electron diffraction, with special emphasis being given to specific topics such as crystal structure determination and surface structure studies. The following speakers have agreed to present papers: S. Y. Tong on Dynamical Methods for Surface Structure Determination; J. B. Pendry on Advances in LEED Theory; D. Aberdam on Medium/Low Energy Electron Diffraction; J. M. Cowley on Crystal Structure Determination Using Electron Diffraction; P. Goodman on Accurate Structure Factor and Symmetry Determination; A. Howie on Dynamic Diffraction Theory; D. Watanabe on Short Range Order Diffuse Scattering from Disordered Alloys; P. Hirsch on Crystal Defect Structure by Electron Diffraction; T. Mulvey on Instrumentation for Electron Diffraction. In addition, depending on support, a session will be held on applications of electron diffraction to industrial research. Contributions are invited on any of the above topics and titles should be sent to the Conference Secretary, Dr P. J. Dobson, Department of Physics, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BZ, England, by 31 January 1977. Abstracts will be required by 31 May 1977.

It is hoped to arrange an exhibition of photographs of historical and current interest. Photographs are invited that reflect either historical aspect, *e.g.* instruments, portraits *etc.* or novel aspects to current interest. Offers should be sent to the Conference Secretary. It is hoped to publish the proceedings of the conference. For further information and application forms write to the Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX, England.

## Book Reviews

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

**Liquid crystals. (Proceedings of the International Conference, the Raman Institute, Bangalore, India, December 1973.)** Edited by S. CHANDRASEKHAR. Pp. 570. Indian Academy of Sciences, 1975. Price \$27.00.

This book is the published proceedings of the International Conference on liquid crystals held in December 1973 to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Raman

Research Institute. It is an impressive volume – in both scope and authority. Most of the internationally famous names are represented and the 47 papers span the full range of the physical sciences.

Two decades ago liquid crystals were virtually chemical curiosities. Since then the subject has expanded explosively and the reasons are not difficult to see. The unique physical properties of liquid crystals offer a challenge to both practical and theoretical research workers. The electro-optical