Further details of the Congress, including arrangements for registration, accommodation, scientific visits, *etc.*, will be published in the *First Circular*, which will be distributed in the second half of 1977. Persons interested in receiving the *First Circular* are requested to complete an application card and return it to the Organizing Committee before 1 June 1977. Application cards may be obtained from the Secretaries of the National Committees for Crystallography or from the Organizing Committee. Please bring this announcement to the notice of your colleagues.

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, PO 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.

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.

Molecular structure – the physical approach. By J. C. D. BRAND and J. S. SPEAKMAN. 2nd edition revised by J. C. SPEAKMAN and J. K. TYLER. Pp. vi + 367, Figs. 120, Tables 69. London: Arnold, 1975. Price £11·00, paper £5·50.

I accepted the task of reviewing this bright small book with great pleasure because of the debt I have to its first edition. The first edition has been of great help to me (as a textbook) in teaching the methods of determination of molecular structure in the physical chemistry courses at my University. In my teaching experience this book has certainly been successful in its purposes – giving, in a general and sufficiently concise way (but not for this less rigorous), the theoretical fundamentals of the methods for molecular structure determination.

This second edition has maintained the same philosophy as the first. On the one hand it gives a sufficiently sound explanation of the physical principles on which the experimental methods are based; on the other, it helps the researcher who uses these methods to realize not only why they are employed but also that they offer many more possibilities than those with which he is accustomed to be content. The book certainly achieves its aim and is particularly instructive for students who need a first general account of the subject before going more deeply into it, possibly in successive specialist courses.

After an introductory chapter on the concept of the molecule and on the range of physical methods available for studying molecular structures, the concept of symmetry is tackled from both the spectroscopic (isolated molecules) and crystallographic (molecules packed in crystals) points of view. Group theory is employed in a simple and elegant way; of course, only point groups are dealt with by group theory as the treatment of space groups would be too cumbersome and outside the aims of this book.

That part more strictly devoted to molecular spectroscopy takes up the following seven chapters and represents about 60% of the whole work. After a chapter on the fundamentals of quantum mechanics and another giving an introductory survey of spectroscopic methods, pure rotation, vibration, Raman and nuclear resonance spectra are considered successively. Well chosen examples are used to clarify the concepts and their importance in the various applications.

Only two chapters are devoted to diffraction methods, one