the triennial International Congresses of Crystallography. The first prize will be presented during the XIV Congress at Perth, Australia, in 1987. This year will be the seventy-fifth anniversary of the discovery of X-ray diffraction in 1912.

Any scientist who has made contributions of exceptional distinction to the science of crystallography is eligible for the Ewald Prize, irrespective of nationality, age or experience. No restrictions are placed on the time or the means of publication of his or her contributions. The prize may be shared by several contributors to the same scientific achievement.

Nominations for the Ewald Prize are invited. They should be submitted in writing, accompanied by supporting documentation, to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, United Kingdom. The closing date for nominations is 30 September 1986.

TH. HAHN   K. V. J. KURKI-SUONIO
President   General Secretary

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Commission on Journals
Atomic Labelling

The Commission on Journals recently voted to simplify the form of atomic labelling. Atoms of the same chemical species within an asymmetric unit should be distinguished in future by an appended arabic numeral, with parentheses around the numeral required only in the event of ambiguity, such as C11 *versus* Cl(1) or C(11).

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Appointments in the IUCr Office

A notice concerning recent appointments in the IUCr office appeared in the July 1986 issue of *Acta Crystallographica*, section A, p. 288.

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.

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International tables for crystallography: Brief teaching edition of Volume A: Space group symmetry. Edited by T. HAHN. Pp. viii + 119. Dordrecht: Reidel, 1985. Price Dfl27.50, $8.50, £7.60.

This is a slim volume consisting of 24 selected space-group descriptions and several pages of the basic text sections from Volume A of *International tables for crystallography.* The declared purpose of the *Teaching edition* is:

(i) to provide a handy and inexpensive tool for researchers and students to become familiar with the use of the space-group tables in Volume A;

(ii) to be used in classroom teaching;

(iii) to serve as a laboratory handbook, because the 24 examples include most of the frequently occurring space groups, for both organic and inorganic crystals.

The basic text section consists of material found in chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5 of Volume A: namely *Symbols and terms used, Guide to the use of the space-group tables, Space-group determination and diffraction symbols,* and *Transformations in crystallography.*

I approve strongly of the idea of bringing out an introductory book on the excellent, but detailed, Volume A, as there is a serious need for material which can be read and understood by beginners and non-specialists. I was therefore delighted to hear that the International Union of Crystallography had, at last, brought out such a text. However, I am sorry to say that, when I opened my review copy, I felt

somewhat surprised and, even, disappointed. The title had suggested a digestible and specially written account, which could be recommended to someone meeting, for the first time, the beauty and mysteries of crystallographic symmetry. Instead of the elementary treatment I had anticipated, it seems that the basic text has been lifted entirely without change from Volume A.

As a result, I certainly could not expect a novice to take the text away and learn from it by him/herself. Indeed, because no attempt has been made to adapt the text to suit its declared aims, on almost every page peculiar inconsistencies can be found which ensure that it cannot stand alone as a teaching text. It is particularly irritating to encounter so many references to sections that are missing entirely. As typical examples, in the *Guide to the use of the space-group tables,* page 10, the reader is referred to sections 8.3.1 and 9.1 for further details on lattice centring and to section 9.3 for reduced bases. On page 30 the index of a maximal subgroup requires the footnote in section 8.1.5 to be consulted. Again, picking a page at random, I find on page 39 reference to a missing Table 4.3.1, and so on. This occurs so frequently throughout that one might as well use Volume A in the first place.

The main problem with the *Teaching edition* is that it falls between two stools. On the one hand, it is too difficult to act simply as a text for learning about the space-group tables and, on the other, it is not complete enough for the experienced researcher to use as a handbook. In any case, those who already know about space groups and the *International tables* are unlikely to want to consult the introduc-