

Editors' Introduction

In September 1980 the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences hosted the First International Symposium on 'Clathrate Compounds and Molecular Inclusion Phenomena' at Jachranka, near Warsaw. Since this was the first symposium devoted entirely to all types of inclusion compounds, the delegates felt that every effort should be made to publicise the proceedings of the conference and to stimulate interest in inclusion compounds and their applications.

The first objective was achieved by publishing the proceedings of the conference as special issues of the *Journal of Molecular Structure* (**75**, Number 1, 1981) and of the *Polish Journal of Chemistry* (**56**, Number 2, 1982).

It was felt that one way of achieving the second objective was by the publication of a treatise summarising the present state of knowledge on inclusion compounds, and this will be published by Academic Press later this year.

The possibility of launching a journal devoted to inclusion compounds was also discussed, but, at that time, we did not have the courage of our convictions to approach a publisher with such a proposal. We were therefore delighted when, about 20 months ago, we were approached by the Reidel Publishing Company with their proposal for launching a new journal. After soliciting the opinion of about fifty scientists who are active workers in this field, the decision to publish this journal was taken based on the finding of overwhelming support for the idea.

The study of inclusion compounds is a very broadly based activity covering the disciplines of chemistry, biochemistry, physics, pharmacology, and chemical engineering, with publications being scattered amongst the journals of the many disciplines. We therefore see a definite need for a multidisciplinary journal, devoted to *all* aspects of *all* types of inclusion compounds, where recent advances in the field can be quickly brought to the attention of those engaged in similar work.

We must express our appreciation to the staff of the Reidel Publishing Company for the enthusiastic and efficient way in which they have cared for the journal during its prenatal period. Now that the gestation period is over it is the duty of the users of the journal to ensure that it develops into a healthy, internationally respected, publication.

We must also express our thanks to the members of the Editorial Board for their helpful comments and suggestions, and for their enthusiastic support.

With your help, we foresee a very successful future for the journal.

JERRY ATWOOD
ERIC DAVIES