

Editorial

This special Symposium issue brings together many of the lectures presented by invited speakers at the Symposium on Liquid Chromatography in the Biomedical Sciences, held in Ronneby, Sweden, from 18 to 21 June 1984. This Symposium was organized by the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences in tribute to Professor Göran Schill's considerable contribution to the development of the biomedical sciences in Sweden, as described elsewhere in this issue.

The Ronneby Symposium was the 15th in a series of distinguished Symposia established by the Swedish organizers, and certainly fulfilled its main objective in spanning the whole field of liquid chromatography. The programme extended from a review of fundamental theoretical aspects (expounded in a brilliant and illuminating opening lecture by Professor J. F. K. Huber), through topics including ion-pair chromatography, the separation of optical isomers, the problems of separating proteins and peptides, the emergent microcolumn technology, novel detectors and new trends, to finish with an extensive and impressive series of reports on recent bioanalytical studies. The invited lectures were supported by an excellent collection of poster presentations which, as so often happens with international symposia, stole the show in terms of the animated and articulate discussions which ensued. The emphasis given to the poster sessions by the Swedish organizers was discreetly underlined by the absence, unusual these days, of an equipment exhibition.

Rather more than half the invited lectures are presented in this special Ronneby Symposium issue. In the nature of things, it was understandably not possible for some of the distinguished lecturers to provide full papers within the tight deadlines allowed by the rapid publication schedule. However, it can be fairly said that the papers collected in this special issue reflect the stimulating breadth and diversity of the key topics presented at the Ronneby Symposium. Sincere thanks are due to the Swedish Honorary Editors (Dr S. Eksborg, Dr B.-A. Persson, Professor J. Vessman and Professor D. Westerlund), who complied with a punishing time schedule to assist in the refereeing and scientific editing of the papers, before the final editing process in Edinburgh.

The Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences is to be congratulated for hosting an excellent and very well-organized meeting, attended by over 200 delegates from 21 countries. Dr Lars-Einar Fryklöf, President of the Academy, chaired the very active organizing committee, whose Secretary, Dr Anders Cronlund, ensured that all ran smoothly, aided by the ladies of the Swedish Secretariat, Mrs C. Lönnsäter and Ms A.-L. Widholm. The Symposium was held in Ronneby Brunn, a superbly well-equipped new conference centre. The old spa town Ronneby Brunn was renowned in days gone by for its health-giving wells and leisurely atmosphere (as illustrated in the old photogravure featured opposite), and proved to be an altogether excellent venue for a meeting on the biomedical sciences. Ronneby is a coastal town in the attractive south-eastern 'Garden of Sweden' in Blekinge Province, whose pleasant climate did much to ensure the success of the meeting.

The social programme included a Symposium Banquet for all the delegates in the nearby town of Karlskrona, when Professor Schill was honoured by the presentation of a specially-bound volume of his students' dissertations. The evening ended in style with a cruise through the Baltic Sea archipelago around Karlskrona, to signal the close of a Symposium which in every respect was a splendid tribute to the profound and influential work of a distinguished man of Swedish Scientific Letters.

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