

Introductory Remarks

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Introductory remarks

BY G. W. SERIES, F.R.S.

The subject of light scattering can hardly fail to be of interest to a body of scientists since the eye is the most delicate of our sense organs, but we shall not on this occasion be concerned so much with direct visual experiences as with the evidence concerning the objects of our study obtained from elaborately planned experiments and by the use of highly developed apparatus. Of the many possible ways in which the field might have been divided, it seemed to the organizers that there was a useful distinction to be made between the structure and properties of the scattering objects, which will be our theme on the first day, and the interactions and dynamics, to which we shall turn on the second. I should make it clear at the outset that these terms relate to what can be discovered by the process of light scattering about the objects themselves. The interaction of the light field with the scattering objects is another matter. I have no doubt that our speakers in both sessions will touch upon this from time to time, but some recently studied aspects of this particular interaction will form the subject of Dr Cohen-Tannoudji's paper.

It is a matter of great regret to all of us that Academician Fabelinskii, whom we had invited to give the opening scientific address to this meeting, found himself unable to accept our invitation for reasons beyond his control. Many of us would have wished to thank him personally for having made available to the world of science his wide experience and knowledge by the publication, some ten years ago, of that most valuable book which is to be found on many of our shelves: we were looking forward to hearing of his more recent work. We are indeed sorry that he is unable to be with us.