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## Introductory Remarks

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## Introductory remarks

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As its title suggests, the purpose of this Discussion Meeting is to review the present state of the art in industrial electrochemistry. We have sought to bring together academic and industrial workers in this field as well as other interested participants. I hope that as the meeting proceeds, a cross-fertilization of ideas will occur both in the formal sessions and during the breaks.

The organizers of this Meeting have given considerable thought to the order in which the different aspects of electrochemistry should be presented. Evidently we had to begin with the fundamentals, after which we decided to deal with the general aspects of electrosynthesis including the developing possibilities of supplying energy to biological processes by electrochemical means. This led naturally to consideration of electrochemical engineering and electro-analytical methods for on-line control.

In one session we shall move to a very practical application of electrochemistry, namely batteries. Beginning with Volta's simple cell, this application is one of the oldest in electrochemistry. In spite of all the advances in the subject, the possibilities of new primary and secondary battery systems remain as wide as ever. I, for one, shall be most interested to hear the progress reports of our three speakers.

We believe that there are important intrinsic advantages in electrochemical processes as alternatives to more traditional ones, particularly in the industrial environment that may develop in the next 10–20 years. If these advantages are to be realized, the lead must be taken by electrochemists not only in producing the processes, but also in presenting them to users in forms that they can see as attractive and cost effective. However, to achieve this synthesis we need guidance and stimulation from users and potential users. We hope that this will emerge both in our formal and informal sessions.

The last session of this Meeting will be a panel discussion in which academic and industrial experts will be prepared to discuss any aspect of our subject with members of the audience. We intend that this will round off matters by giving participants in the meeting a chance of going into any aspect of the subject in more detail with a group of leading experts.