

## Introductory Remarks

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## Introductory remarks

BY SIR GRANVILLE BEYNON, F.R.S.

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In opening this two-day Discussion Meeting may I, on behalf of the Royal Society, extend a warm welcome to you all and in particular may I say an especial word of welcome to our three visitors from abroad: Professor Bengt Hultquist, Director of the Kiruna Geophysical Institute; Dr H. J. Opgenoorth of the Swedish Institute of Space Physics at Uppsala, and Dr T. E. Moore of the NASA Space Flight Centre, Huntsville, U.S.A. We are very pleased that they have been able to accept our invitation to contribute to the discussion.

One of the important functions of the Royal Society has, of course, always been to organize scientific discussions, and each year the Society sponsors some 12–15 Discussion Meetings which bring together scientists from this country and abroad to present papers and to discuss a particular subject as fully as possible. The topics for these meetings are suggested by individual Fellows of the Society and others, and each year Council of the Royal Society, on the recommendation of one of its Committees – the Hooke Committee – compiles a programme of Discussion Meetings. The topics that are finally selected are those considered to be both timely and important. The spring Meeting for 1988 is ‘The magnetosphere, the high-latitude ionosphere, and their interactions’. With the ever-increasing interest in high-latitude geophysical phenomena and with all the scientific studies currently under way at high latitudes using both ground-based and space techniques (some of which will be reported at this meeting), I am sure we can look forward to an interesting discussion.

As some here will no doubt recall, 1988 marks the centenary of the birth of Sydney Chapman (born on 29 January 1888) and when we first discussed the programme it was suggested that this meeting should be designated the ‘Sydney Chapman Royal Society Discussion Meeting’. Sydney Chapman truly was a legend in his own lifetime and over some sixty years he made many key contributions particularly in the field covered by this Discussion Meeting. Not only did he make monumental contributions to our subject, but he was also responsible for proposing much of its nomenclature, giving us so many of the familiar terms: scale-height, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, aeronomy and much besides. Nothing could be more appropriate then that we should, in this centenary year, dedicate this Discussion Meeting to his memory.

Finally, the detailed preparation of the programme for this meeting has been carried out almost entirely by Dr Michael Rycroft and Dr Stan Cowley, and on behalf of Sir Robert Boyd and myself I would like to accord them our sincere thanks for all the work they have put in. On behalf of the Royal Society, I thank Mr Robert Maxwell, M.C., for his generous financial help with the cost of the colour printing in this issue. Without his assistance, this would not have been possible.