

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO PAPERS OF WEYBRIDGE CONFERENCE

In response to the invitation by the Editors I welcome the opportunity to write a few introductory lines to the seven publications which form a part of the papers presented at the Biennial Conference of the Polymer Physics Group of the Institute of Physics (London).

First a few words about the scientific body and about the occasion. The Polymer Physics Group has its origin in a spontaneously formed association founded in 1964, first as an independent body under the name of British Polymer Physics Group for the sole purpose of creating a forum for scientific workers active in the physical aspects of polymer science. In 1970 the group became affiliated with the Institute of Physics when it acquired its present name. The main function of the group is the organization of meetings either on its own or in association with other bodies. While most of these meetings are on certain specific topics, one event the 'Biennial Conference', is reserved for providing a cross section of the whole field of physical polymer science. The papers below are representative of the material presented at the 1979 Biennial Conference. It is only a selection because there is no explicit publication policy regarding these meetings; authors who so wish may avail themselves of the opportunity to submit under the collective heading dedicated to this group of conference papers by the particular Journal.

Even in the present truncated list — seven out of a total twenty-eight presented papers apart from the twenty additional posters — gives an idea of the scope and breadth covered by such a Biennial Conference. As will be noted the substances include a variety of synthetic polymers and the subject matter ranges from the academic to the technological. Both structure and properties receive about equal attention and so does polymeric matter in the solution and in the solid state. Properties include both mechanical and electrical. Further, as will be seen the novel and topical subject of macroscopic polymer crystals as well as interaction of polymers and ionizing radiation also features. Even if this list is only an incomplete representation of the much wider subject area actually presented it exemplifies the scope and purpose of these Biennial Conferences which is to counteract the increasing fragmentation of knowledge into separate specialities. In the name of the Polymer Physics Group I wish to express my appreciation to the Editors for making the Journal 'Polymer' a mouthpiece of these meetings.

A. Keller

Chairman of the Polymer Physics Group