



Hans H. Uebing

A Word from the Editors

The year was 1945. August Krogh, recently retired, had begun a study of the permeability of biological membranes to alkali metal ions with the aid of radioactive isotopes. Because he could not devote enough time to it himself, he asked his young assistant Ussing, who was then using radioisotopes in work on protein metabolism, to take charge of the project. Thus began Hans Ussing's interest in membrane transport, which was to become a life-long pursuit. First he developed a theoretical framework for permeability studies with tracers. Then followed his long chain of discoveries and ideas, which became guideposts in this field. Continuity is a basic feature of the scientific enterprise to which each worker in his time contributes what he can. Such continuity is easy to trace through the papers of the Reichenstein Castle Symposium; they are in many ways an extension of the chain started in 1945. Could there a better tribute to a scientist?

Hans Ussing has also been instrumental in the development of the *Journal of Membrane Biology*. He was among the first to join its Editorial Board and helped to give the Journal shape and direction. And he gave unstintingly.

It is with greatest pleasure that the Editors dedicate this special issue to Professor Hans Ussing.

Werner R. Loewenstein