

## International Union of Crystallography

### Appointments in the I.U.Cr. office

Mr S. A. Bryant retires on 31 December 1975 from the position of Technical Editor which he has held for thirteen years. Mr Bryant graduated at Oxford in 1930 with first class honours in chemistry and crystallography, having studied the latter under T. V. Barker. After also obtaining the degree of B. Sc. by research he spent two years at Armstrong College (now part of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) as a lecturer in organic chemistry, followed by a further period of research at the University of Bristol. In 1934 he moved to the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, and from there ten years later to Shell, in which he was successively research chemist, technical information officer in the London office, and senior technical editor at the Thornton Research Centre near Chester.

In 1962 the then Technical Editor of *Acta Crystallographica*, Professor R. W. Asmussen, signified his desire to resign as at the end of that year, but it proved impossible to find a successor who could continue the work on the previous part-time basis. The Executive Committee of the I.U.Cr. therefore decided to appoint a full-time Technical Editor for Union publications, and Mr Bryant started work in this capacity on 15 November 1962. For some time he worked alone, but because of the continued expansion of *Acta Crystallographica* it soon became necessary to engage first a secretary and then an Editorial Assistant. After the division of the journal into two sections at the beginning of 1968, and the launching of the *Journal of Applied Crystallography* in the same year, an even more rapid increase ensued in the number of journal pages published annually, and the technical editing staff needed to be further enlarged. The normal complement in addition to the Technical Editor

is now an Assistant Technical Editor, two Editorial Assistants, and a secretary.

Dr D. W. Penfold, at present Assistant Technical Editor, succeeds Mr Bryant as Technical Editor from 1 January 1976. Dr Penfold studied at Imperial College, London, where he obtained an honours degree in physics, becoming an Associate of the Royal College of Science. Subsequently he carried out research on the relation of superconductivity to structure in  $\beta$ -W type compounds, for which he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. He spent a short period as a research assistant at University College London before joining the full-time editorial staff of the Union on 12 July 1971.

Dr J. E. Derry, who has been a member of the Technical Editor's staff since January 1972, becomes Assistant Technical Editor in succession to Dr Penfold. Dr Derry is an honours chemistry graduate of the University of Birmingham, where he also obtained a Ph.D. in X-ray crystallography for his research on the structures of diquat and related compounds. He is a co-author of a number of recent papers in *Acta Crystallographica*.

Mr R. S. Daykin resigned as Editorial Assistant earlier this year and two new Editorial Assistants have been appointed. Mrs S. Wallis, an honours graduate in physical sciences of the University of Surrey, joined the Chester office on 1 September 1975, having previously worked for a year in Karlsruhe with the European Institute for Transuranic Elements. Mr M. H. Dacombe, a first-class honours graduate of the University of Leeds, where he studied chemistry and earth sciences, commenced work in Chester on 1 October 1975. Mr Dacombe was previously on the staff of the BNF Metals Technology Centre, and was editor of the monthly bulletin *BNF Abstracts*.

### Book Reviews

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS 2 9 JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

**Transition metal oxides. Crystal chemistry, phase transition and related aspects. NBS 49.** By C.N.R. RAO and G. V. SUBBA RAO. Pp. v+130. Washington: National Bureau of Standards, 1974. Price not known.

The transition metal oxides form an interesting class of solids with properties arising from the presence of outer *d* electrons. This review is made up of data, with references up to 1973, describing crystal-structure and X-ray studies of transition metal oxides, the thermodynamics of phase equilibria, the crystal chemistry and phase transformations

of binary oxides of 3*d*, 4*d* and 5*d* transition metals. Also included are changes in properties accompanying phase transitions.

This is a very useful review of interest to those researchers entering this particular field.

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