

tures and properties of imperfect crystals, and his determination of the atomic and crystallographic processes which enable strong alloys to be hardened by plastic working. The award to Dr Huxley is for his research on the structure of muscle and on the molecular mechanisms of the contractile process.

Dr M. L. Huggins celebrated his 80th birthday in 1977. This occasion was marked by a special symposium held in his honour at the Polytechnic Institute of New York on 15 October 1977. Speakers included Professor **P. J. Flory**, Professor **L. Pauling**, Professor **P. P. Ewald**, Dr **A. Weissberger**, Professor **H. Mark** and Dr Huggins.

Professor **W. Klyne**, Professor of Chemistry, Westfield College, University of London, died on 13 November at the age of 64. It was through his efforts that the MRC Steroid Reference Collection was based at Westfield College. His publications included *The Chemistry of Steroids* (1957) and the multi-volume *Atlas of Stereochemical Correlations* (1974).

Professor **R. Mason**, who has been Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sussex, Brighton, England, since 1971, has been appointed to succeed Sir Hermann Bondi as Chief Scientific Advisor in the UK Ministry of Defence.

Professor **Herbert O'Daniel** died on 15 August 1977. From 1947 until his retirement in 1971 he was Director of the Mineralogisches Institut der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main. His interests in crystallography were widespread and included structure analysis, by means of X-ray and neutron diffraction, in crystal chemistry and in mineralogy.

He completed his studies for his doctorate in Heidelberg in 1930, and in 1935 he obtained the degree Dr. habil. at the Technische Hochschule München. From 1938 to 1944 he was Head of the X-ray Section of the Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut, later the Max-Planck-Institut für Silikatforschung, in Berlin-Dahlem. In 1947 he was appointed to the full professorship of mineralogy at the University of Frankfurt. There he re-established the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft (DMG) and initiated the 'Sektion für Kristallkunde', the national organisation for crystallographers in his country.

In these early post-war years he helped establish contacts with the IUCr. From 1950 to 1959 and from 1967 to 1970 he was Secretary of the National Committee for Crystallography of the Federal Republic

of Germany and was Chairman of the delegation to the Eighth IUCr General Assembly at Stony Brook in 1969. He was also a member of the Union's Commission on *Structure Reports* from 1951 to 1957. With the death of Professor O'Daniel a devoted leader in crystallography and mineralogy has been lost.

Dr F. Sanger, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, has been awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society for his research on the chemical nature of proteins and nucleic acids.

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Notes for Authors

An updated version of 'Notes for Authors' has been published recently in *Acta Crystallographica Section A* [*Acta Cryst.* (1978). A34, 143–157]. Copies of these notes may be obtained from any of the Editors or the Technical Editor.

Polarization ratio for X-rays – A survey by the Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus

The Commission is conducting a survey of measured values of the polarization ratio for crystal-monochromated X-ray beams. A notice summarizing the definition of this ratio and mentioning techniques for its measurement has been published recently in *Acta Crystallographica Section A* [*Acta Cryst.* (1978). A34, 159–160]. The objective of the survey is to establish the range of values observed in practice and all interested scientists are invited to participate.

Book Review

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 LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

Advances in X-ray analysis. Vol.

20. Edited by H. F. McMurdie, C. S. Barrett, J. B. Newkirk and C. O. Ruud. Pp. xvii + 604. Plenum, 1977. Price \$42.50.

This volume contains papers presented at the 25th Annual Conference on 'Applications of X-ray Analysis' held at Denver in August 1976. In contrast to the trend in recent years, the emphasis of the meeting was on powder diffraction methods and particularly on quantitative measurements, signified by the presence of H. F. McMurdie of the JCPDS as conference and by invited papers from two of the founders of quantitative diffractometry, L. E. Alexander and L. K. Frevel.

As may be expected a number of papers deal with computer searching of the JCPDS file and other data sources and one reports the results of a round-robin comparing this with hand searching, on a group of test mixtures, mineral, organic and inorganic. The results indicate that, even among the 'upper crust' laboratories taking part in the round-robin, laboratory practice and the measurement of *d* values were not all they might have been; searching is better able to cope with poor

data than is the computer but if only poor data is available then additional information on elemental composition vastly improves the computer performance.

A large group of papers deals with X-ray diffraction stress analysis, an encouraging proportion of them making measurements for practical purposes in the real (commercial) world. A comparison by Kirk and Caulfield of the effectiveness of fitting either a cubic or a quadratic to step counts, for peak location, is valid in other fields as well as stress analysis.

Energy-dispersive methods of X-ray analysis offer such attractions in increased speed that they come under discussion in all sections of the meeting, but it is in X-ray fluorescence that they look most immediately promising. A paper on analysis of nickel ores shows that acceptable accuracy can be achieved.

In the instrumentation section a new proportional single-wire detector offers the possibility of simultaneous registration of the whole diffraction pattern with considerably better resolution than is available from energy-dispersive systems; here, possibly, will be found the best compromise between speed and resolution.

ALICE E. MOORE

R & D Division
Cement & Concrete Association
Wexham Springs
Slough SL3 6PL
England