

Foreword

This – the second – volume on Electron Spin Resonance Spectroscopy in the series of *Specialist Periodical Reports* covers a period (June 1972 to November 1973) of lively activity in the field. The areas of Chemistry in which the technique is being applied continue to increase; there can now be few to which it has not contributed in some measure.

The organization of this volume is generally the same as in its predecessor, with three exceptions. First, free radicals in the solid state are not separately treated; to avoid duplication, it has been found better to include these studies in chapters on inorganic and organic radicals. Secondly, a substantial chapter on e.s.r. in biochemical systems has been introduced. Thirdly, a compilation of *g*-factors of organic radicals in solution has been included.

The units used for describing e.s.r. spectra continue to vary. The purist's call for the use of frequency units for hyperfine splitting constants is now unlikely to be heeded; the custom of recording them in magnetic units is too well established. However, it should be remembered that a spectrum is not completely described by quoting splittings in these units; the *g*-factor is also required. Comparatively few workers have adapted so far to the appropriate S.I. unit (tesla, T), the majority continuing to use gauss (1 mT = 10 gauss). This is reflected in the articles whose authors have usually quoted the units used in the original publications.

June 1974

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