

Introduction

It has now become accepted practice to subdivide these Reports into Volumes A and B, the former covering organic + bioorganic topics and the latter covering inorganic + bioinorganic topics. Hopefully, a number of e.s.r. (e.p.r.) spectroscopists buy both volumes, but I know that quite a number find the subdivision useful since their interests are specialised.

Sadly, it seems that we (may?) need to change the name to Electron Paramagnetic Resonance. This is required by the new IUPAC recommendation, and by a strong recommendation from America. I use the word 'sadly' in a purely personal sense. It has been "ESR" for me since ca. 1956 when the earlier name of paramagnetic resonance was dropped in favour of e.s.r. I thus have an affinity for "ESR" much as I have for the name "Marty" - and it will be difficult to change.

There are two unfortunate events relating to this volume for which I must apologise. One is that we failed to have the Volume ready for the Annual International EPR Conference at the Royal Holloway College, thus breaking with a tradition, and possibly losing much needed sales. The other, directly related factor is the absence of a chapter on "Organic Radicals in Solids" although, fortunately, Brian Tabner's chapter has covered some aspects of the solid state studies. This is an especially serious omission, since the same chapter was missing in Volume 11A.

This is clearly the Editor's responsibility and undoubtedly represents poor judgement on my part. I will see to it that a very thorough chapter on this topic is forthcoming for Volume 13A. As I pointed out in my 11A Foreword, this chapter had been promised by Professor Ffrancon Williams who insisted that it was being prepared, and would be delivered, up to the beginning of December 1987. [The deadline was September.] I was then informed that it would not, in fact, be written, but that he would guarantee a 4-year review for the earlier deadline of August 1989. Sadly, there was again no chapter, but by Christmas I had to take the decision of having the chapter, but missing the Conference, or giving up on the chapter. Further promises made me take the gamble of waiting, but by the end of March the RSC was told that the chapter would definitely not be forthcoming, so my gamble - and trust - were mistaken.

Despite this problem, I feel that the contributions are fully up to standard, and I wish to thank all the authors for meeting the deadlines (or nearly so!) and to apologise to them for this very long delay.

Most of these chapters are on-going from Volume 11A. These include chapters on Organic Radicals in Solution (Brian Tabner), Triplets and Biradicals (Andrew Hudson), Applications of ESR in Polymer Chemistry (James O'Donnell and colleagues), Spin-Labels: Biological Systems (Ching-San Lai), and Radicals in Biology and Medicine (Nick Dodd).

