

Foreword

As indicated last year, the continued rapid growth in the amount of work published on spectroscopic properties of inorganic and organometallic compounds has meant that the field must now be covered annually in two volumes of Reports. This is the first year under the new arrangement and the topics retained within this volume include n.m.r., n.q.r., microwave, vibrational, and Mössbauer spectroscopy. The other *Specialist Periodical Report*, entitled 'Electronic Structure and Magnetism of Inorganic Compounds', has been prepared under the general guidance of Dr. P. Day (Oxford) and deals with e.s.r., electronic spectra, and the magnetic properties of ionic solids and co-ordination compounds. Apart from this change, the coverage and arrangement of this Report closely parallel those adopted last year.

It has been our aim not only to record results, but to indicate the wide variety of ways in which spectroscopic information is being used. Each chapter is self-contained and its length, and the number of references it contains, indicate the extent to which each technique is being applied to the study of inorganic and organometallic compounds. Each chapter states the range of work covered and the areas which have been omitted.

The references have been obtained by means of the techniques outlined in previous volumes and we have tried to include all significant advances published during 1970. Our task was not lightened by the prolonged postal strike in the U.K. at the beginning of the year, but we hope that the late insertion of various material has not detracted too seriously from the continuity of presentation. Despite this two months' delay in obtaining some journals we have, through the tolerance of the Editorial Staff and the generous co-operation of the Printers, been able to publish Volume 4 on schedule in early autumn. The Senior Reporter would also like to pay tribute to the tremendous amount of extra work done by the individual reporters in difficult circumstances.

N. N. G.

