

FOREWORD

Organic photochemistry has been expanding at a tremendous rate during the last few years. Nevertheless, although several meetings dealing with this subject were held during this period, the emphasis has been set rather on the physical side. It was, therefore, very appropriate for I.U.P.A.C., through its Organic Chemistry Section, to take the step of sponsoring a Symposium on organic photochemistry.

Professor W. A. Noyes, Jr. Past-President of the Union, and Professor P. D. Bartlett had a major part in initiating the project, while Professor G. S. Hammond brought it to fruition by exercising his talent and tenacity. The extent of Professor Hammond's success can be judged by merely looking at the names of those he persuaded to lecture, all of whom are well-known for their important contributions to the field of organic photochemistry.

The success of such a meeting also lies in its general organization. This was made vastly easier by the fact that the Symposium was part of a NATO scheme for advanced studies on organic photochemistry. From this, the Symposium derived two main benefits. Firstly, the number of participants was limited, so that everyone had a good opportunity of meeting people. Secondly, a generous grant made it possible to invite participants from all over the world, especially younger ones, thus correcting geographical and positional inequalities.

The evident interest in the Strasbourg meeting, which brought together physical chemists and organic chemists, raises the hope that similar symposia will be held at regular intervals in the future.

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