

## PREFACE

The Third IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry was held from 12 to 18 July 1970, at the Kulm Hotel, St Moritz, Switzerland, and was attended by 237 participants. It had originally been planned by the Organizing Committee to restrict the number of participants to 140, but because of the large number of applications received, this figure was eventually revised. The expansion in the size of the Symposium from that originally planned was made rather reluctantly in view of the fear that a larger Symposium might lead to less concentrated discussions, and also because it meant that the participants could not be all accommodated in one hotel. In the event, however, the scientific quality of the meeting appeared not to suffer as a result of the expansion in numbers, and may even have benefited from the broader spectrum of interests.

Eleven Plenary Lectures were delivered at the Symposium, and the texts of these are reproduced in this volume. In addition, twenty seven shorter contributed papers were presented, these being selected on the first day of the meeting from the large number of titles and abstracts which had been submitted.

Additionally, one or two informal discussion groups were arranged. One of these attempted, without any great success, to reach a common understanding about the use of the term 'diradical', but nevertheless it led to a valuable exchange of ideas.

Although it had been decided not to give the Symposium any predominant theme, both inorganic photochemistry and photochromism were given particular emphasis, and distinguished contributions were received on these subjects. In view of the inclusion of inorganic photochemistry, the title of this publication has been changed from 'Organic Photochemistry', as in the past, to 'Photochemistry'.

The Organizing Committee would like to express their thanks to the financial sponsors, and to the many people who in official and unofficial capacities contributed to the smooth running of the Symposium. Valuable assistance with the organization was provided, completely without charge, by the Kurverein of St Moritz, and by Swissair.

Finally, the success of any meeting of this type depends upon the Speakers. There was abundant evidence of the high quality of the lectures, for example in the very fully attended late-night sessions. I am sure that all participants will wish to be associated with this record of our thanks to the Speakers and all those who contributed to the liveliness of the discussions.

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