

PREFACE

Symposia have been held in the past covering various aspects of antibiotic research and although they were useful for the scientists engaged in that particular field, there was very little opportunity to meet and discuss their problems and achievements with colleagues pursuing work in different disciplines. It was therefore felt that it would be extremely useful and interesting to all if chemists and microbiologists were brought together at a Symposium to review the current status and recent accomplishments in vital areas of antibiotic research.

The idea was fulfilled when the Chemical Institute of Canada, Medicinal Chemistry Section suggested to the Canadian Society of Microbiologists and the newly formed Division of Medicinal Chemistry of the Organic Chemistry Section of the IUPAC that they should undertake the co-sponsorship of the Symposium.

The scientific success of the Symposium was largely dependent on the speakers as well as the participants who came from various parts of the world. The topics covered were diverse and of current interest.

The success of such a Symposium lies in its general organization. Generous financial assistance from various pharmaceutical companies* made it possible to invite speakers, especially our younger colleagues, from many distant places such as Japan, India and Great Britain, thus circumventing both geographical and positional inequalities. Since the number of participants and the number of lectures given each day were intentionally limited, participants had ample time and opportunity to meet and discuss with their colleagues.

It was felt that everyone left the Symposium with a better understanding of each other's problems and successes, and hopes were expressed that such a Symposium could be held at regular intervals.

Montreal

S. RAKHIT

* Financial support from the following companies is gratefully appreciated: Abbott Laboratories, Ayerst Laboratories, Bristol Laboratories, Eli Lilly & Co., Hoechst Pharmaceuticals, Hoffmann La Roche Inc., Schering Corp., Smith Kline and French,