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Preface

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Preface

During March 25–28, 1968, a symposium on organic solid state chemistry was held at Brookhaven National Laboratory. This meeting, hopefully, was unique only in the sense that it promises to be the first of its kind. The field of organic solid state chemistry has grown enormously in the last several years both in terms of the number of people involved and in the number and kinds of approaches to the problems this field poses. Unfortunately, the growth of the field has been somewhat incoherent. There has been a lack of communication almost amounting to a lack of recognition between people working in different aspects of the subject. Thus the diffraction people in general paid too little attention to the spectroscopists who in turn tended to pay too little heed to the people concerned with defect structure. And unfortunately, all of these were in the recent past to a large extent overlooked by the people who study actual chemical reactions in solids. As a result, the subject has tended to break up into a series of separate disciplines nearly independent of each other.

This meeting was organized on the premise that these disciplines are not really independent, that the people in them have something significant to say to each other. It is important for the man working with chemical reactions to know the exact structure and the extent of molecular motion in the solids he works with. Since there is a marked tendency for many reactions to initiate at or at least be influenced by defects, the study of defect structure is important. A large number of the reactions studied are initiated photochemically or by ionizing radiation. Therefore, the story the spectroscopists and the radiation chemists have to tell becomes a factor. Thus we see we cannot completely understand reaction mechanisms without some acquaintance with all these disciplines. This meeting,

hopefully, was a step towards bringing all these lines of work together. It was indeed one of the principal purposes of our gathering.

Another purpose was to make available in print a number of papers illustrating and explaining various aspects of our field. It was hoped that putting these in one publication would facilitate people getting familiar with other aspects of the field besides their own narrow speciality. It should also be helpful to newcomers in this discipline. What follows, therefore, is the text of the majority of the papers which were presented at the symposium. As can be seen, the subject matter is quite varied and runs the gamut of organic solid state topics. This is in keeping with the philosophy that governed the organization of this meeting.

This meeting would not have been possible without the sponsorship and financial aid of Brookhaven National Laboratory and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. For this we are indeed grateful. I as chairman, would also like to thank the rest of the organizing committee, without whose heroic efforts this symposium could not have gone as smoothly or as well.

The committee members were the following:

G. Adler, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Chairman
R. Arndt, Brookhaven National Laboratory
M. D. Cohen, Weizmann Institute
A. Damask, Queens College, City University of New York
G. J. Dienes, Brookhaven National Laboratory
D. Fox, State University of New York at Stony Brook
R. Hochstrasser, University of Pennsylvania
M. Labes, Drexel Institute of Technology
G. M. J. Schmidt, Weizmann Institute
J. Sherwood, University of Strathclyde
W. P. Slichter, Bell Telephone Laboratories

Finally, a word must be said about the session chairmen and the speakers. Their efforts form the backbone of any symposium. They

are the ones that are really responsible for the measure of success the symposium has achieved.

GEORGE ADLER
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October 1, 1968