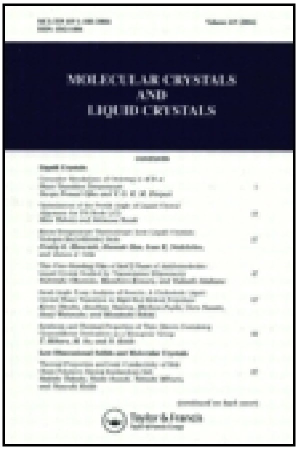

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Closing Remarks

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CLOSING REMARKS

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I would first of all like to express the thanks of all the participants to the Local Organizing Committee for the truly magnificent work of preparation that preceded ISIC 9. For this job, particularly well done, thank you.

On behalf of the spokesman of our Japanese colleagues of the International Advisory Committee, who unfortunately could not attend this last session of ISIC 9, I now take pleasure in inviting all of you to our next Symposium, i.e. ISIC 10, which will be held in Japan in May 1999.

As regards the present Symposium, a word about the number of participants and the papers presented. During the previous ISIC, fears had been voiced regarding a possible decrease in attendance due to a diminishing interest in the subject of intercalation. It is now clear that a symposium in which substrates as diverse as graphite, clays, nanotubes, fullerenes, chalcogenides, etc..., are examined is, inevitably, quite lively, as well as a source of intellectual enrichment for all the participants willing to make the slight effort necessary to forget, for a short while, the field in which they specialize in order to learn about the work of colleagues. The phenomenon of intercalation is itself sufficiently complex to warrant examining it in as many fields as possible if one wishes to understand it.

Another remark also forced itself to my mind: someone (I believe it was our colleague J. Fischer) once said: "I tell my students: if you want to learn Solid State Physics, just refer to the properties of the Graphite Intercalation Compounds". This remark is, I find, equally applicable to most of the substrates presented here. I could add that this applies, as well, to the different aspects of Solid State Chemistry.

Equally notable is the fact that, in many cases, much of the chemistry and physics used to study the intercalation compounds of graphite was immediately applicable, with no (or hardly any) modifications to a number of other substrates. I refer, among other techniques, to the twin-temperature reactor, to intercalation from molten ionic media, to the preparation under high pressures of otherwise unobtainable solid phases, etc.

In general, applications-oriented papers seem to be on the increase: Li batteries, carbon fibers, high-Tc superconductors are examples thereof, and others could be cited in the fields of pillared clays, non-linear optics, etc. In all these and other cases, studies of the chemical and especially of the physical properties are of primary importance in acquiring a fuller understanding of the mechanisms involved, and this sometimes requires calling upon highly sophisticated techniques. This is an excellent illustration of the inescapable interconnexion of physics and chemistry, and of pure and applied science: without the chemists, many physicists would be restricted to theoretical speculations, while chemists with no contact with physics or physicists would not be able to go beyond the preparation of often beautiful or sometimes queer substances, whose properties would be unknown to a large extent and which would remain mere laboratory curiosities. Similarly, it is evident that the extensive exploitation of the applications to which a substance can be put can only be obtained by the most sophisticated study of its chemical and physical properties. So, to all, I wish "Good hunting, good chemistry, and good physics!".