Tetrahedron Vol. 44, No. 24, p. xi, 1988. Pergamon Press plc. Printed in Great Britain

PREFACE

The formal theme of this Symposium-in-Print, Physical-Organic/Theoretical chemistry, is admittedly broad -- too broad, in its widest sense, to permit a comprehensive approach to the subject. The intention of this formal title is rather to connote, and narrow the focus to, the sub-domain of theoretical chemistry which has powerfully interacted with, stimulated, and ultimately become an integral part of physical-organic chemistry during the preceeding twenty years. Accordingly, not only the theoretical chemistry which provided the stimulation but also the affected areas of physical-organic chemistry were targeted for emphasis. At least in part because of their early leading role in this key physical-organic/theoretical interaction, semi-empirical SCF MO methods are particularly strongly emphasized. Nevertheless, ab initio SCF MO theoretical methods, which have come strongly to the forefront in recent years, are well represented, and molecular mechanics is not neglected.

The actual physical symposium which was styled the Symposium on Physical-Organic/Theoretical Chemistry and which convened in Austin, Texas on February 25-27, 1988, had a dual character. One motivation for the Symposium was, of course, to highlight and advance the important area of chemistry defined above. A second, and at least equally important motivation, was to honor Michael James Steuart Dewar in the year of his seventieth birthday (actually, Michael's birthday is September 24). The connection between the two themes of the Symposium is too direct and strong to require justification. Indeed, it is precisely this physical-organic/theoretical interface which Michael has so profoundly stimulated, developed, and transformed over the course of his long career.

NATHAN L. BAULD
Department of Chemistry,
The University of Texas,
Austin, Texas 78712 1167, *U.S.A.*