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Preface

The 1981 *Annual Reports on the Progress of Chemistry* are again published in three separate Sections: A – Inorganic Chemistry; B – Organic Chemistry; C – Physical Chemistry.

There are no major departures in policy this year and the coverage continues to develop in depth and extent in line with previously stated criteria (for more detail see the Senior Reporters' Introductions to the three Sections). The publication dates for all three Sections have been disappointingly late, and in the absence of production delays it must be regretfully stated that the main contributory factor has been late delivery of some chapters. This was particularly the case for Section C for which two major contributions did not materialise until August; at the time of writing this Preface it seems very doubtful whether publication will be achieved before the end of 1982. This is especially disappointing in view of the publication date achieved for the 1980 Section C – September 1981. At the beginning of 1982 it was hoped to revert to the early Autumn for publication of all three Sections, and with hindsight perhaps deadlines should have been enforced rather than being put back in the expectation of imminent delivery. However, when important contributions are involved, and especially when they have been omitted from previous volumes as in the case of Section C, it is difficult to elevate the virtue of timeliness over those of completeness and balance of coverage. Our contributors are all busy people with many other commitments, and probably all that can be done at this juncture is to re-emphasise the importance of punctual delivery, if late publication is not to become a serious adverse influence upon the viability of *Annual Reports*.

The 1981 Sections A and B both exhibit an increase in length compared to the 1980 volumes: 360 and 394 pages of text respectively. We welcome new Senior Reporters for these Sections – Professor J. D. Donaldson and Dr. P. G. Garrett respectively; the latter is collaborating with the incumbent Professor A. G. Davies. Section C is much longer this year, *ca.* 400 text pages, as Professor M. C. R. Symons succeeded in obtaining two long-awaited contributions.

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