

Crystal Descriptions. Cambridge: Heffer. 1956. Price £10 the three parts.

Semiconductors. Report of a meeting held by the Physical Society. Pp. 153 with many figs. London: Physical Society. No date [1957]. Price 20s.

Physical Properties of Crystals. By J. F. NYE. Pp. x+322 with many figs. Oxford: Clarendon Press; Oxford University Press. 1957. Price 50s.

Handbuch der Physik: Encyclopaedia of Physics. Band 32. Structural Research. Edited by S. FLÜGGE. Pp. vii+663 with 373 figs. Berlin; Göttingen; Heidelberg: Springer. 1957. Price DM. 144.00.

Elements of Partial Differential Equations. By I. N. SNEDDON. Pp. ix+327 with many figs. New York; Toronto; London: McGraw-Hill. 1957. Price \$7.50; 56s.6d.

Acta Cryst. (1957). 10, 391

International Union of Crystallography

Report of Executive Committee for 1956

Introduction

The most important events in 1956 were the Symposium devoted to 'Structures on a scale between the atomic and microscopic dimensions', held in Madrid in the buildings of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas from 2 to 6 April, and the discussions of the Commissions on Crystallographic Apparatus and on Crystallographic Teaching, held concurrently with the Symposium. The meetings were attended by about 225 crystallographers and other scientists from twenty-one countries. The thanks of the Union are due to the Local Committee, of which Prof. A. Durán and Dr Manuel Abbad were respectively President and Secretary, for the many arrangements in connexion with the Madrid meetings, and to the Programme Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. A. Guinier for arranging the scientific programme. At the Symposium fifteen general lectures were given on various electron-microscopic, X-ray and electron-diffraction studies of structures of the order of 100 Å. Special sessions were held during the last two days, at which forty-eight contributions were presented. A more detailed report of the Symposium, and of the meetings of the two Commissions concerned, has already been published (*Acta Cryst.* (1956), 9, 832).

The Executive Committee of the Union also met in Madrid during the first week of April, and so did the Commission on *International Tables*, the Programme Committee for the Fourth International Congress, and the Sub-Committee on the Revision of Statutes and By-Laws. In addition to various routine matters, the chief items of business at the Executive Committee meeting were the arrangements for the Fourth General Assembly and International Congress, to be held in Canada in 1957 (see *Acta Cryst.* (1956), 9, 835); the revision of the Statutes and By-Laws, a first draft of which was circulated to the National Committees shortly after the Madrid meeting; and a review of the various activities of the Union, including its publication programme.

In the year under review the Executive Committee provisionally accepted the application for adherence to the Union received from the Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin on behalf of the German Democratic Republic. The twenty-three countries adhering to the Union at the end of 1956, along with their Adhering Bodies and the names and addresses of the Secretaries of the National Committees, are listed in Table 1. At the end of this Report, the membership of the National Committees for Crystallography are given.

Work of the Commissions

Commission on Acta Crystallographica

The increasing amount of work submitted to *Acta Crystallographica* for publication led to an increase of the size of Vol. 9 (1956) over that of the preceding years (1050 pages against 860 in 1955); the improved financial position of the journal rendered this possible without exceeding the income. The volume contains 173 full papers and 91 short communications coming from laboratories in 19 different countries.

The amount of advertising in Vol. 9 was still rather limited, but it is hoped that in the course of the next years more advertisers may use the journal in order to reach practically everyone interested in buying crystallographic equipment.

Commission on International Tables for X-ray Crystallography

Vol. II is now being printed by the Kynoch Press and may be ready for publication late in 1957. A first supplement to Vol. I, giving diagrams for the cubic space groups, is being prepared, and suggestions for further Supplements will be welcomed by the Editorial Commission. The preparation of Vol. III is now well advanced. Meanwhile Vol. I has continued to sell steadily at the