

energy industries. The Radiation Protection Adviser would be responsible for specifying the conditions of operation where it is not reasonably practicable to meet the requirements of the legislation. Whereas students are not 'at work' under the terms of the Act, it is envisaged that they will be treated exactly as employed persons in this legislation.

From many points of view, some form of type approval or system approval would be very useful. There might, for example, be British Standards. In discussion it was made clear that the 1974 Health and Safety at Work *etc.* Act does not *require* that the Health and Safety Executive initiate schemes of approval. The new legislation is more stringent than the Factories Act in practice, since it will require that protective devices are not only supplied but are properly maintained and used. In practice, this could well be a very difficult legal area when manufacturers supply apparatus which is either subsequently modified or used in an unusual experiment.

A great deal of the discussion was centred on the question of the acceptable risk. In the spirit of the 1974 Act it is fairly clear that no risk at all is acceptable. Several delegates expressed the view that the risk is already so low that we should be very wary of the belief that legislation can improve the situation when there is no scope for much improvement. Statistics showed, for example, that about half of the accidents to date were due to human errors and carelessness, rather than poor design or the absence of safety measures. After much discussion it was agreed that open-beam diffractometers represented the greatest problem.

In a straw poll of the 300 delegates approximately 90% were found to be active X-ray users. None had ever had mild erythema. One had a finger burnt last year, and another burnt a finger 25 years ago. These figures are roughly consistent with the statistical details provided earlier by Dr Linsley and Mrs Martin in their talks.

In summary, the Crystallography and Spectroscopy Groups are to be congratulated for providing a timely, lively and informative discussion of this important programme of legislation. I am grateful to David Outteridge for comments on the manuscript.

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Crystallographers

This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours, etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board, should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England).

Professor **A. J. C. Wilson**, Department of Physics, University of Birmingham, England, will resign as Editor of *Acta Crystallographica* and Chairman of the IUCr Commission on Journals on 31 December 1977 and will be succeeded by Dr **S. C. Abrahams**, Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974, USA. Professor **J. Wyart** and Professor **H. Lipson** will also resign on 31 December 1977, as Co-editors of the journal. A more detailed report of these changes will be published in the January 1978 issue of Section A of *Acta Crystallographica*.

Dr **P. W. Anderson**, Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, Sir **Nevill Mott**, Emeritus Professor at Cambridge University, and Professor **J. H. Van Vleck**, Emeritus Professor at Harvard University, have been awarded the 1977 Nobel Prize for Physics for their fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems. Their work has shown how a cheap and reliable material can be used to improve the performance of electronic circuits in computers, increase the capacity of the mass memories of such systems, and produce more efficient photovoltaic cells to convert solar energy into electricity.

Professor **B. G. Hyde**, formerly at the Department of Inorganic Chemistry of the Gorlaeus Laboratories, Leiden, The Netherlands, is now at the School of Chemistry at the University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Western Australia.

Dr **S. J. Joshua** is now at the Department of Physics at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

Dr **B. R. Pamplin** has been appointed Editor in Chief of the new journal *Progress in Crystal Growth and Characterisation* (Pergamon Press). Dr Pamplin is on one year's sabbatical leave from the University of Bath, England, at the Materials Research Center of Stanford University, California, USA.

Professor **Chatar Singh**, Foundation Professor of Physics in the University of Science of Malaysia and President of the Malaysian Institute of Physics, has been awarded the Order of Chivalry entitled

'Johan Setia Mahkota' by the Yang Dipertuan Agung of Malaysia. This is in recognition of his meritorious service to Malaysia in the field of higher education.

International Union of Crystallography

Prices of Acta Crystallographica and Journal of Applied Crystallography

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography has found it necessary to increase the yearly subscription rates and also the prices of back numbers for *Acta Crystallographica* and *Journal of Applied Crystallography* as from 1 January 1978. Every endeavour has been made to keep these increases to a minimum.

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