

From the response which the lectures, the poster sessions and the exhibitions on the European Synchrotron Radiation Facilities received, it can be concluded that this symposium was most useful to all attendants.

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*(Received 24 October 1978;
accepted 1 November 1978)*

J. Appl. Cryst. (1979). **12**, 138

Teaching Crystallography for Today's Sciences, Summer School, Erice, Sicily, Italy, 6–16 September 1977

The first Summer School on the Teaching of Crystallography was held in Erice (Sicily, Italy) in September 1977. It was organized by the IUCr Commission on Crystallographic Teaching and sponsored by IUCr, Unesco and various official and private organizations. It was attended by 90 participants of 36 different nationalities, a number of them from developing countries. The aim of the School was not to teach sophisticated methods to professional crystallographers, but to give simple and precise ideas on how to teach basic crystallography to non-crystallographers, and on how to convey to them the great power of crystallography, keeping in mind the need to teach crystallography at many levels through school and university and to students of many different sciences.

The School did not attempt to be comprehensive. The main topics covered were: point group symmetry, space group symmetry, experimental techniques of X-ray diffraction, bases of the dynamical theory, structural types, principles of structure determination and real crystals. For each topic the main difficulties encountered in teaching were developed in full lectures followed by tutorial classes and discussions. Various teaching aids were presented and discussed in special sessions: films, programmed texts, optical analogues and models. Laboratory experiments were also discussed and participants were encouraged to present posters and exhibits on teaching material.

Finally, applications of crystallography to metallurgy, earth sciences, industry and engineering, chemistry and biology were presented. Informal discussions took place on many subjects, such as comparisons of curriculae in various countries. These discussions and contacts between participants from different countries and different specialities were found by all present to be extremely profitable.

The School was the occasion for testing the first pamphlets prepared for the IUCr Commission on Crystallographic Teaching. They are short texts by different authors, on different topics pertaining to the teaching of crystallography at various levels and are the early steps of a major project by the Commission. Information concerning this project can be obtained from Professor C. A. Taylor, University College, PO Box 78, Cardiff CF1 1XL, England and from Professor A. Authier at the address below.

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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, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England).

J. Appl. Cryst. (1979). **12**, 138

Professor **W. Cochran**, Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, has been awarded the Hughes Medal of the Royal Society for his work on electron density distributions and lattice dynamics.

International Union of Crystallography

J. Appl. Cryst. (1979). **12**, 138

Union Office, Change of Address

The Union Office, incorporating the Union secretariat and the technical editing office, has now moved to 5 Abbey Square,

Chester CH1 2HU, England. All correspondence for the Executive Secretary and the Technical Editor should be sent to this address. The telephone number (Chester 42878), the cable address (Unicrystal) and the telex address (667325 COMCAB G, attention Unicrystal) remain unchanged.

J. Appl. Cryst. (1979). **12**, 138–139

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