Preface

Volume X of the Proceedings has changed in a number of ways. The appearance and cover of the book are an obvious departure from previous editions. Nephrology is part of the new title, although the traditional title is retained to aid consistent library filing and indexing. Whilst renal failure still forms the bulk of the subject matter, general nephrological topics make a significant impact upon the contents. Editorial reviews this year have been contributed by H E de Wardener, with an extensive review of the present state of natriuretic hormone research, and B B MacGillivray, who has written a concise but detailed review on the important subject of the diagnosis of cerebral death. The latter is particularly relevant in view of the continued and often emotional debate on the acquisition of organs for transplantation.

This year the Proceedings will be distributed in the USA with the Transactions of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs. United States nephrologists will be able to order their copies in the same mailing envelope as is used for the Transactions. It is hoped that your papers will be available to a much wider American readership than has been possible in the past.

Copies of the book will be available earlier this year. This has been made possible by the cooperation of the members in submitting their manuscripts in good time, and by the cooperation of Pitmans, who have made special efforts to bring forward the publication date. Editing of the discussions, a difficult task, was simplified by the innovation of typing from the tapes immediately after the papers were delivered, the discussants correcting the manuscripts. This system, it is hoped, will be available again next year.

The question of copyright has recurred this year. The situation is that members are bound by copyright law to an exclusive agreement with their publishers. This means that articles, figures and tables cannot be published unless they are original, or written permission is obtained from previous publishers for their reproduction.

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