Preface

The task of the Editor of these Proceedings is to ensure publication as speedily as possible in a form which truly reflects the spirit and intention of the authors and participants. The written contributions should require little alteration except to achieve a reasonably consistent presentation, and where in the Editor's opinion the author has not presented his data clearly and concisely. The discussion after each paper is a very valuable part of the proceedings and we are very much indebted to those participants who came to the Editor's office during the Congress and helped us to polish their recorded comments into a concise form, truly expressing their meaning and opinions. Unfortunately, lack of space has demanded that we abbreviate or even omit some parts of the discussion to include only the most pertinent remarks.

The need to keep the Proceedings to a reasonable length has once again made it impossible to include in this publication the several excellent demonstrations on view at the Congress. We apologise to the contributors.

We hope that this volume conveys the undoubted success and high scientific level of the 13th Congress. The Proceedings include an Editorial Review of Uraemic Neuropathy by Professor PK Thomas, and the two Workshops, on drug metabolism and on intestinal function in uraemia, during both of which there was lively discussion. I am grateful to Professor DNS Kerr, who chaired the workshop on drug metabolism, for undertaking the major part of the editing of this session. This section of the Proceedings, as well as the unique statistical report concerning the treatment of Renal Failure by the EDTA Registry Committee, should ensure that this edition becomes a valuable reference volume for practising nephrologists.

We have made no significant changes in the format this year, which reflects the excellent planning and organisation we have inherited from John Moorhead and his colleagues. We would like to acknowledge their achievement over the last three years and express our hopes that we can emulate their high standard of editing.
The speed and ease of editing are greatly facilitated by the adherence of contributors to the 'Instructions to Authors'. We are grateful to the majority of authors who followed these instructions, but we were nevertheless handicapped by the few who did not. The latter may like to ponder upon the Editorial impression that there was a quite close and direct correlation between the scientific merit of a paper and the care with which the authors had presented their data in accordance with our Instructions.

One of the questions which has currently to be considered by editors of medical publications is whether to adopt the Système International d'Unités (SI units). In the UK and a few other countries these have been pressed upon reluctant clinicians by their laboratory colleagues, but most European and American Nephrologists are used to 'old fashioned' units, at least in clinical work, and we have avoided the issue this year by accepting without alteration the units which individual authors have chosen to use in their contributions. In future years there may be a call for greater standardisation.

Finally we would like to express our thanks to the Congress President and Secretary for providing us with excellent facilities and help; to Drs Ramesh Naik and Brian Mahood for assistance during and after the Congress in checking papers and discussion and reading manuscripts, and the indispensable secretarial and organising assistance of Miss Irene Darlaston. The close cooperation and guidance of Pitman Medical and particularly of Mrs Betty Dickens have been essential to the speedy and accurate production of this volume, as with its predecessors.

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