

1st April, 1966.

Dear Eric,

I didn't have an opportunity later on Wednesday to discuss with you the suggestion from the Chemical Society that they might combine forces with the NMRDG for the purpose of holding meetings on magnetic resonance. I take it that this was the proposal that you mentioned to me.

One of the strengths of the present NMRDG arrangements (and it is exactly the same in the case of the IRDG and the PSG) is that the meetings really do provide a medium for both university and industrial scientists to get together to discuss topics of mutual interest. There are too few opportunities for this type of combined meeting and I should be most unhappy if any rationalisation arrangements with the Chemical Society were to change this emphasis. If you put the proposal to the NMRDG meeting next week my guess is that there will be considerable opposition from the industrial spectroscopists because they will fear that under the Chemical Society's banner the meetings will become too "pure". On the other hand one can certainly see the point of coordinating meetings that are organised by different societies etc. and one must not be in principle unfavourable to rationalisations of this type. The easiest thing would be for the IRDG to continue to make arrangements for NMR meetings but agree to take into account the wishes of the Chemical Society to sometimes participate in meetings of this type. But one cannot conceivably imagine the Chemical Society for example wishing to put on two or three meetings a year on NMR and hence the prime responsibility should remain ours. If any such collaboration with the activities of the Chemical Society are thought to be appropriate then I would like to suggest that the other chemical organisations (the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the Society of Analytical Chemistry, for instance) should be asked to participate on a similar basis. After all one of the real merits of the modern instrumental methods of studying molecular structure is just that they do bring together all types of chemists.

It may be that meetings under such new arrangements would have to be fixed up in detail a longer time ahead, and it may also be that some more uniform financial arrangements will have to be made between the spectroscopic groups. But I think we ought to some degree of rationalisation if the NMRDG can remain effectively in control of the country's programme of meetings on NMR. If appropriate, I wonder if you would consider mentioning these views at the IRDG meeting?

Yours sincerely,

N. Sheppard.

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