

PREFACE

THE present volume follows closely the lines adopted by Prof. Fowler in the earlier volumes of the *Transactions of the International Astronomical Union*.

The "Reports of Commissions" are substantially as prepared for the Leiden meeting. So far as was possible, without incurring heavy expenditure on printing, amendments adopted at Leiden by the General Assembly have been incorporated into the body of these Reports. References have been given, where necessary, to make clear what further amendments or additions have been adopted; these are included in the reports of the meetings of the various commissions.

The publication of this volume has been considerably delayed owing to an attempt to include in it the details of the revised boundaries of the constellations prepared by M. Delporte under the authority of Commission 3. This work is nearly complete for both hemispheres, but the final form of the accompanying charts and one or two outstanding points remain to be settled. It has been decided to publish the new boundaries subsequently in a separate pamphlet.

Thanks are due to the secretaries of the various commissions for the help rendered in the preparation of the reports of the meetings of commissions and also to the Recorders of the General Assembly: Prof. Chrétien, Prof. Mauderli, Prof. van Biesbroeck and Baron de Vos van Steenwijk. Especial thanks are due to the last named, not only for valuable help in arranging for the services of interpreters at the various meetings but also for undertaking the official translation into French of the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly.

My personal thanks are due to Prof. Fowler for much assistance rendered in the past three years, notably during my first year of office, when I was absent on an eclipse expedition.

F. J. M. STRATTON,
General Secretary.

GONVILLE AND CAIUS COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE,
ENGLAND.

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