

of progress in theoretical physics have undergone a vast change during the present century. The classical tradition has been to consider the world to be an association of observable objects (particles, fluids, fields, etc) moving about according to definite laws of force, so that one could form a mental picture in space and time of the whole scheme. This led to a physics whose aim was to make assumptions about the mechanism and forces connecting these observable objects, to account for their behaviour in the simplest possible way. It has become increasingly evident in recent times, however, that nature works on a different plan. Her fundamental laws do not govern the world as it appears in our mental picture in any very direct way, but instead they control a substratum of which we cannot form a mental picture without introducing irrelevancies". What a contrast to Lord Kelvin's statement from the last century that "It seems to me that the test of 'Do we or do we not understand a particular point in physics?' is 'Can we make a mechanical model of it?'" Far from this, it has become increasingly necessary to rely on our feeling for the abstract and on our mathematical sensibilities in trying to comprehend the developing

physical picture of nature. And though I have quoted from many Masters, it seems that more than anyone else the writings of Dirac express beautifully the style of, and his works have contributed a great part of the content of, the changing mathematics that underlies modern theoretical physics.

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4. Planck, M., *Scientific autobiography and other papers*, Greenwood Press, Westport, Connecticut, 1971.
5. Weyl, H., *Symmetry*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1952.
6. Wigner, E. P., *Symmetries and reflections*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1967.
7. Yang, C. N., 'Geometry and Physics', in 'To fulfill a vision: Jerusalem Einstein Centennial Symposium (ed.) Yuval Ne'eman, Addison-Wesley, New York, 1981.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### THIRD NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIO-ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

The Third National Symposium on Bio-organic Chemistry will be held during July 9-11 1987, under the joint auspices of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Regional Research Laboratory, and the Department of Biochemistry, Osmania University. This symposium is held once in two years. Topics to be covered in the symposium are: i) Lipids, Biomembranes, Chemical messengers and Receptors, ii) Biotechnology, Immunochemistry Enzymes and related topics, iii) Biotransformations, Biosynthesis and Biomimetic Chemistry, iv) Synthetic methods in Peptides, Oligonucleotides and Carbohydrates, v) Macromolecular interactions and Structural methods in Bioorganic Chemistry.

The scientific programme will consist of plenary lectures and half-an hour oral presentations by invited speakers. The Proceedings of the Symposium will

appear as a special issue of the Journal of Biosciences, published by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.

One of the objectives of the symposium is to generate and promote interest in areas related to bio-organic chemistry among young scientists. It is planned to select twenty-five young and promising research scholars and teachers in national laboratories and for participation in the symposium. The partial or complete expenses on participants under this category will be borne by the organizers, depending on the availability of funds.

Further particulars may be had from: Dr K. N. Ganesh, Convenor, Third National Symposium on Bio-organic Chemistry, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad 500 007.