

preface

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in interest in that area of science which is found in the interface between inorganic chemistry and biochemistry. This field, generally known as bioinorganic chemistry, has recently seen a remarkable growth. Such growth is evidenced by the establishment of a new journal named *Bioinorganic Chemistry*, through the establishment of research laboratories such as the Unit of Nitrogen Fixation at the University of Sussex, England, by the numerous sections at conferences dealing with such topics, and by the appearance of a number of text and review books on the subject.

The development of this discipline within Canada was invigorated by the award of a negotiated development grant from the National Research Council of Canada to establish the Bioinorganic Group within the chemistry department at the University of British Columbia.

As part of our endeavors in this area the group organized a symposium on the biological aspects of inorganic chemistry which was held at UBC June 20 - 25, 1976. The following 11 papers are symposium addresses given at the conference. Two others given by Dr. J. P. Collman (Stanford University) and Dr. T. R. Parsons (University of British Columbia) were not presented in manuscript form.

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