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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
It seems appropriate to comment on the publication of the fiftieth volume in this series. The first volume of *Advances in Enzymology* appeared in 1941 under the editorship of Friedrich F. Nord, who transplanted its predecessor, *Ergebnisse der Enzymforschung* (first published in 1932 in Leipzig) to the United States. This series has flourished since its inception; it has been fortunate in obtaining outstanding chapters by eminent authors, and the volumes have been warmly received by its readers. The study of enzymes has indeed been a moving force in the growth of biological knowledge, and enzymology continues to serve crucially in a broad range of disciplines.

It is perhaps instructive and certainly interesting to review the contents of the earlier volumes of *Advances in Enzymology*, which are given at the beginning of this volume. Even a brief inspection of the titles and authors gives one some feeling about the history and extraordinary development of biochemistry. The authors have included many of the pioneers in biochemistry and enzymology, and the chapters cover a broad range of topics. With the tremendous increase in scientific activity in recent years and the accompanying burgeoning scientific literature, many scientists and students have depended on authoritative and informative reviews to achieve a coherent picture of a particular field. *Advances in Enzymology* has provided a number of comprehensive reviews that serve this purpose and also has endeavored to provide chapters by outstanding scientists that emphasize their own thinking and accomplishments and thus serve as models of scientific exploration.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to those who have contributed chapters. It is gratifying to find that *Advances in Enzymology* continues to be widely read throughout the world; indeed, more than half of the copies are distributed outside the United States and the authorship of the chapters continues to be international. I also wish to express my appreciation to the publisher for continued encouragement and advice.

**Alton Meister**

_New York, New York_  
_April 1979_
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