

J.S.E. Baglin.

I would like to begin this letter by expressing my sense of great excitement and pleasure as I look at the schedule of MRS activities for the year ahead. The Society is in a state of dynamic evolution resulting from its consistent success... success that derives from high quality technical meetings, highly respected publications, short courses in frontier fields, and valuable member services, all of which serve to stimulate and support our research in the whole spectrum of materials sciences. Flexibility and a readiness to try a new idea, test a new format, or begin a new enterprise, have always been vital characteristics of MRS, leading to such fruitful projects as the Symposium on High T_c Superconductors (organized at express speed for the 1987 Spring Meeting and available on video tape); the Forum on the Materials Science and Engineering Study at the 1986 Fall Meeting (the report to the National Academies of Science and Engineering is due for release soon); the publication of the Symposium Proceedings series and the founding of *Journal of Materials Research*; the development of the Short Course program; and the diversification of the already broad range of topics addressed by our meeting symposia.

In a sense, the readiness to explore new vistas reflects exactly the philosophy of research itself, and especially that of the frontier materials work which we try to feature in all of our programming.

What are some of the highlights of the year ahead?

A Dynamic Society

• In our lists of technical symposia, we find many intriguing new titles, such as Materials Issues in Art and Archaeology, Diamond and Diamond-like Materials Synthesis, Adhesion in Solids, High Performance Composites, Materials Stability and Environmental Degradation, Optoelectronics, Atomic Scale Calculations in Materials Science, Nanocrystalline Materials, Solid State Ionics, Rigid-Rod Polymers, and Materials Science of Calcified Tissues. These Symposium topics will be accompanied by a comprehensive array of topics at the cutting edge of the more familiar disciplines in semiconductors, ceramics, polymers, metals, catalysts, interfaces, beam-solid interactions, materials characterization and related technologies.

These topics have been selected not only to serve the research communities for whom MRS has become "home," but also to enhance the scope for genuine interdisciplinary exchange, as experts in one field broaden their perception of related fields and perhaps find new opportunities to make substantial scientific contributions. Such opportunities exist, for example, in the inter-related fields of biomaterials, polymer science, and materials characterization; or in the fields of cements, ceramics, glasses, polymers and composites.

• MRS proceedings of these symposia will, we hope, continue to form the basis of definitive libraries in each of these special fields, over future years.

• The Short Course program, integrated carefully with the topics of the symposia, offers superb opportunities for professional development and in-depth study.

• *Journal of Materials Research* is finding acceptance as the journal of record in materials research. The quality of papers published remains extremely high, and speed of publication is excellent.

• The MRS BULLETIN will now be published every month. Its content has literally blossomed over the past year to include more materials news, special feature articles, information sections, and advertising by our suppliers of laboratory products and services. Dedicated organizational work by Elton Kaufmann has been vital to this pro-

gress, and a BULLETIN Editor will now be appointed to the Headquarters staff.

• New Student Chapters of MRS have recently been formed, (bringing the total to 14), and others are being considered.

• Initiatives from the materials community in several other parts of the world have led to the founding of new societies sharing the general views and goals and structure of MRS. MRS-like societies are now being formed or are planning technical meetings in Japan, India, China, South America and Europe. (Watch the Meetings Calendar for the flurry of MRS or MRS-cosponsored meetings this summer in Japan and China.) The international materials research organizational meetings held last December in Boston and previously in Strasbourg have set the stage for formation of a worldwide liaison of materials research societies, to which MRS will make an enthusiastic contribution in many ways.

It is worth reflecting for a moment on the magnitude of the Headquarters support required in order to service all these fresh and expanding activities. The load is large, and even with the physical benefits of expanded space, more staff, and a new computer system, the job could be smoothly accomplished only by an enthusiastic staff, ready to innovate constantly, and bend (still smiling) in the winds of crisis. MRS is fortunate to have just such a staff, under the very special direction of John Ballance and his department managers Gail Oare and Rege Ebner.

The MRS Council is our governing body, in which the far-reaching decisions are made which enable the MRS to grow and thrive. The MRS council elected for 1988 is a strong, vigorous and experienced assembly, and we may expect forward-looking discussions in our meetings. Day-to-day executive decisions are made, of course, by the MRS Executive Committee, consisting of the elected Officers of the Society. (Our monthly conference calls represent some of the toughest days' work in the year.) I would like to point out here that MRS is extremely fortunate in having a superb reserve of insight, experience and enthusiasm in the Society Officers

for this year. (1st Vice-President, Bob Chang; 2nd Vice-President, Paul Peercy; Treasurer, Sue Kelso; Secretary, Julia Phillips; and Past President, Kathy Taylor). I look forward to working with them, and I feel confident that the enterprising philosophy of MRS will be in safe hands indeed.

The varied thrusts of MRS activity depend on the work of the many committees. Each committee has special functions, ranging from organizing fund-raising to planning technical programs or coordinating university relations. Committee functions are vital, and in future letters, I plan to highlight

some of their activities and some of the issues which they may be facing.

There is no doubt that this dynamic Society has an exciting and productive year ahead! Please be sure to tell all your colleagues and friends about us, so that they too can enjoy the MRS experience in 1988.

Corporate Participation Program

Materials Research Society

Organizations interested in influencing the growth and direction of interdisciplinary, basic research in materials are invited to take part in the MRS Corporate Participation Program as Corporate Affiliates. The program links the efforts of two key groups towards advancing development of materials of technological importance—organizations responsible for pioneering development and application of advanced materials and the Materials Research Society, which provides an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of technical information among materials scientists in industry, government, and academia.

Corporate Affiliates help the Society in its mission by providing advice on topics to be addressed at its meetings. Their financial contributions enable the Society to address these topics in a timely and thorough manner and to publish and disseminate scientific data quickly. The result of this cooperative focus is an acceleration in and broadening of the scientific understanding in a particular area. Each Corporate Affiliate is kept abreast of the Society's goals and activities through a corporate representative.

MRS Corporate Affiliates play a vital role in the Society by ensuring that the Society's technical programs are responsive to the interests of the research community and by broadening the financial base of the Society. MRS is the only scientific association devoted to promoting research on materials from a multidisciplinary perspective. The Society's rapid growth since 1973 is due to its unique method of matching the needs of industrial research organizations and to its quick response to changing interests in the materials science community.



MRS Corporate Affiliate Benefits

- ▶ Subscription to the MRS BULLETIN, the Society's news publication (one copy for the corporate affiliate representative, one copy for the company library).
- ▶ Recognition of support in all promotional material for MRS Fall and Spring Meetings.
- ▶ Advance notification of meeting programs and events.
- ▶ Advance consultation on topical program contents.
- ▶ Opportunity to purchase symposium proceedings at meeting participant prices.
- ▶ Free employment ads in the MRS BULLETIN.
- ▶ Opportunity to display corporate literature free of charge at MRS meetings.
- ▶ Opportunity to participate in job placement services free of charge at MRS meetings.
- ▶ Reduced booth rental rates at MRS equipment exhibits.
- ▶ Opportunity to meet with Society Officers on topics of mutual concern.

For further information about the MRS Corporate Participation Program, contact:

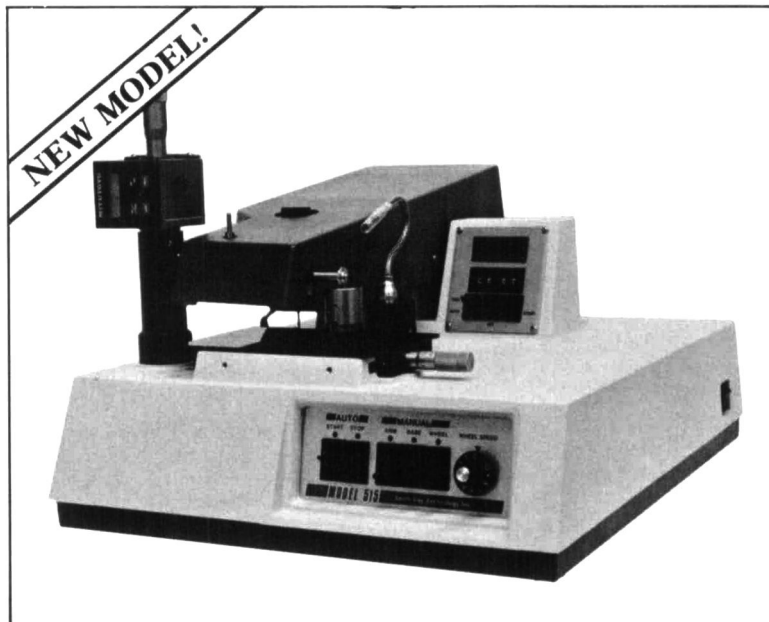
Michael Quick, Chair, Corporate Participation Committee, Engelhard Corporation, Menlo Park, CN28, Edison, New Jersey 08818; telephone (201) 321-5590.

or

John B. Ballance, Executive Director, Materials Research Society, 9800 McKnight Road, Suite 327, Pittsburgh, PA 15237; telephone (412) 367-3003.

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