

PREFACE

During the month of February of 1958, Otto Stern, the founder of Molecular Beam Research, completed his seventieth year. This is a landmark that calls for public recognition by his many friends and disciples. The most appropriate way of paying tribute to a scientist on such an occasion is to present a series of scientific papers which have been inspired by his work and have carried it beyond the limits of his own efforts. The papers printed on the following pages have been contributed in this spirit and have been selected with the aim to illustrate the various scientific fields which have been stimulated by Stern's personality and by his work. Some deal with current research on specific problems, some are review papers covering broader areas, and some attempt to describe the early history of molecular beam research in certain laboratories. They do not claim to give a comprehensive account in any of these respects. Their principal objective is to express to Otto Stern the authors' appreciation for the inspiration they found in his work and to wish him, jointly with the numerous other workers in this field of research and with his many friends outside the Molecular Beam Fraternity, many more years of health and happiness.

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