FOREWORD

During the annual meetings of the faculty of the Centre, lectures by selected faculty members are arranged. The speakers present the recent advances in the fields of their specialisation. These lectures are open to the faculty members of the Centre and also to the staff and students of the Institute.

With the courtesy and cooperation extended by the Indian Institute of Science, these lectures are, for wider circulation, published in the *Journal of the Indian Institute of Science*. This volume, which is the third in the series, carries the lectures delivered at the annual meeting of the faculty in November 1992.

The Nehru Centre is thankful to Prof. S. S. Krishnamurthy, Editor of the *Journal*, for bringing out this special issue.

(C.N.R. Rao)

President

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research

Bangalore April, 1993