

PREFACE

The field of galactic structure has developed rapidly in the past decade with important advances in several branches of optical astronomy as well as in the new discipline of radio astronomy. However, without the guidance provided by studies of other galaxies, our interpretation of the new results would have been seriously delayed. Recent progress in both of these fields was reviewed in a symposium on 'Comparison of the Large-Scale Structure of the Galactic System with that of other Stellar Systems' which was held in Dublin in September 1955 in connexion with the Ninth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union.

Each symposium participant was requested to submit a written manuscript. Some of these were written later and contain material not presented at the symposium. In addition, the discussions and Dr Baade's introductory paper were transcribed from a tape recording of the symposium proceedings. These transcriptions were later checked and revised by the participants concerned. The unfortunate delay in publishing these collected papers in book form is partly due to the late submission of manuscripts by several of the authors.

English versions of the manuscripts were provided by the authors, but those not originally written in English were edited. The contributions by Kopylov, Vorontsov-Velyaminov and Shchegolev were not presented at the symposium but have been condensed for inclusion in this volume at the request of Dr Kukarkin.

The undersigned wishes to express her thanks to Dr A. Blaauw for his assistance in the preparation of this volume.

N. G. ROMAN, *Editor*