QUANTITIES, UNITS, AND SYMBOLS

Second edition 1975

When the 1971 edition of this handbook was issued it was boldly suggested that it was likely to be of interest to all whose business it was to `order all things by measure, by number, and by weight’. The rapid disposal of that edition and the encouragement of much informed comment gives confidence that it is justifiable to repeat the remark on the occasion of the publication of a new edition.

The general arrangement of the handbook is substantially unchanged; the sections appear in the same sequence as previously, but they are now presented in a clearer style to facilitate easier reference. With the incorporation of additions and alterations resulting from recent decisions of the relevant international bodies the handbook has been updated to the end of 1974. The adoption of helpful suggestions by members of the Royal Society Symbols Committee and others has resulted in further improvements, in particular the addition of a new section entitled ‘Sources’ which gives concisely the authority for statements made throughout the handbook. In consequence the new edition of Quantities, units, and symbols can be confidently recommended to all members of the scientific community.

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