Meltzer
& Michie

MACHINE INTELLIGENCE 8

Edinburgh

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with a perspective view by
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INTRODUCTION

In the introduction to the previous volume, it was mentioned that each future Workshop would include a specially invited address on possible social applications and implications of intelligent machines. The Sixth Machine Intelligence Workshop, the proceedings of which are recorded here, marks the first of this new series. Professor R. L. Gregory presented, in terms both whimsical and profound, his conception of 'brain fictions' and their relation to the interface between the worlds of the psychologist and of the engineer. Gregory's message is directed towards whoever is willing himself to question the origins and consequences of new technologies and the transformations of Man's self-picture which they bring in their train.

The speed with which the new arts of machine intelligence may be expected to act upon this self-picture not only continues to be evidenced by the content of the Workshops, but has also received recent recognition in the foundation of a new international journal, *Artificial Intelligence*, following suggestions made at the final meeting of an earlier Workshop. The journal is directed by a distinguished and widely representative editorial board, and published by American Elsevier. All who believe that the new discipline has something of importance to offer to science and scholarship, and to mankind at large, will wish the new venture success.

A special word of appreciation for the Science Research Council's support of the Workshop series is called for. SRC again met the financial cost of this Workshop. It will also not have escaped the attention of those who read 'Acknowledgements' sections that the great bulk of work conducted in the United Kingdom has been sponsored by SRC; the launching of the new journal thus also arises indirectly from its support.

Once again the University of Edinburgh provided the venue, and defrayed the cost of the Workshop Lunch. We were also fortunate that Mrs J. E. Hayes and Dr Helen Muirhead were able once more to devote themselves respectively to the organization of the Workshop and the editing of the volume with the special blend of efficiency and good humour on which old Workshop hands have come to rely.

B. MELTZER
D. MICHIE
December 1970