

## Preface

The main task of the IIIrd World Fertilizer Congress in Heidelberg was, to give account of the results of the first century of modern fertilizer measures. Leading experts from almost every continent of the world dealt with problems, concerning the increase of soil fertility and its maintenance. The effects of the macro- and micro elements on plant life, their decisive influence on the quality and the nutritive value of the agricultural and garden products were the focal point of the discussions of the world fertilizer congress as well as the economic effects of our modern fertilizer measures.

The abundance of valuable results of the congress demands a publication, to set down the present position of our knowledge in fertilizer science after a development of about 100 years in this field, for all those who are interested in the evaluation of these materials for the furtherance of industrial production, distribution and sale of fertilizers or for the agricultural or horticultural advisory service.

The undersigned undertook the task of publishing the valuable contributions at the instigation of the German Organization-Committee in the three languages of the congress: German, English, French. We believe, that we have fulfilled our duty towards all interested groups as far as possible.

Editors and publishers hope, that this publication in three languages will find favourable reception in these circles and also further more in a wider public and that its contents may find productive use.

Darmstadt, Summer 1959

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