

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In 1954 Dr S. BLUMER took the initiative to gather in Switzerland a number of European workers in the field of virus diseases of fruit trees at the occasion of the visit of some wellknown virologists from U.S.A. and Canada. By organizing this symposium his intention was to contribute towards a closer contact between the research workers in this field and towards international cooperation. Certainly Dr BLUMER succeeded in his intentions.

At that symposium the proposal was made to maintain these contacts and to have such symposia more regularly. It was decided then that the next symposium should take place in the Netherlands in 1955. As there was also in the Netherlands in that year the 14th International Horticultural Congress it was thought practical to have the symposium shortly before the Congress so as to have the chance of welcoming fruit virologists from other continents.

This second Symposium on Virus Diseases of Fruit Trees in Europe was organized by the Institute for Phytopathological Research and the Plant Protection Service, both in Wageningen, Netherlands.

The papers read at the symposium and the conclusions reached after a discussion on international cooperation in fruit tree virus research are included in this publication. The organizing committee hopes that it will fulfil a need to more concrete documentation and that it may contribute also a little towards the international cooperation in this field.

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The organizing committee,

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