OF THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

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Lectures on Some of the Physical Properties of Soil by Robert Warington

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ROBERT WARINGTON

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LECTURES

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HENRY FROWDE, M.A.
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GEPORD



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LECTURES

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PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

BY

ROBERT WARINGTON, M.A., F.R.S.

FORMERLY SIBTHORPIAN PROFESSOR OF RURAL ECONOMY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; EXAMINER IN THE PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART

WITH A FRONTISPIECE



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PREFACE

THE contents of this volume formed the substance of a course of lectures delivered by the author as Sibthorpian Professor of Rural Economy in Michaelmas Term, 1896. The subject of the final chapter did not actually form part of these lectures, though it had been prepared for delivery if time permitted. The whole of the matter has since been carefully revised.

The form of lectures has not been adhered to in the present volume; the language has in fact been greatly condensed. The title of lectures has, however, been retained, as it best expresses the character of the work. This is not a textbook, dealing exhaustively with the physical properties of soils; but lectures, discussing with some fullness particular portions of the subject.

In these lectures the attempt has been made to treat every subject from an experimental point of view, and a considerable space will be found occupied by accounts of the investigations which appear to have thrown most light upon the subjects discussed. The behaviour of actual soils under known conditions has been made as far as possible the foundation of the conclusions drawn.

A great mass of results has accumulated from the investigations made in the very numerous Agricultural Experiment Stations in Europe and America; with these results the agricultural teacher is too often unacquainted. His valid excuse is the scattered publication of the reports, and his want of time to correlate the several results recorded. The writer hopes that the publication of these lectures will stimulate others to labour in the abundant harvest field of Experiment Station Reports. It must ever be borne in mind that it is only on the results of experimental investigations that Agricultural Science can be safely built.

The reader will probably be surprised that so little is said respecting English soils, and so much respecting the soils of America. The writer heartily wishes that this might have been otherwise. In fact, however, the physical constitution and properties of English soils have as yet not been investigated, save in a very few exceptional cases; this has been doubtless due to the great lack of investigators and research laboratories in this country. The general properties of soils can of course be equally well illustrated by any well studied examples, but the deficiency of knowledge of our own local soils is nevertheless a very real evil, and must greatly hinder the practical application of general principles.