PREFACE

ALTHOUGH the art of zinc extraction has been practised in this country for more than a century, comparatively little has been written relative to its development since the publication of the classical work of Dr. John Percy, which appeared in 1861.

It is probably this absence of a special literature dealing with the position of the zinc industry in recent years that partly accounts for the lack of interest hitherto shown in this branch of British metallurgy.

At the present time, however, the importance of the production of zinc and other non-ferrous metals is, fortunately for this country, becoming more generally recognised; it is, therefore, in the highest degree desirable that there should be available treatises suitable for the use of those interested in non-ferrous metals, whether they are manufacturers, users of metals, scientific investigators, or students of metallurgy.

In this work the author has endeavoured to give a general survey of the development of the zinc industry, and its present and possible future position in relation to the various metal industries of this country.

In its preparation the author has freely availed himself of the current literature on the subject. He would more particularly express his indebtedness to the papers by J. C. Moulden, on "Zinc, its Production and Industrial Applications" (Royal Society of Arts, 1916); H. M. Ridge, "The Utilisation of the Sulphur Contents of Zinc Ore"; and also to the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, 1915-1916, for useful information on the zinc ore resources.
PREFACE

Thanks are also due to Mr. Ridge for valuable information, and for kindly providing the illustrations of the roasting furnaces, and to Dr. F. C. Thompson for preparing the photomicrographs.

With regard to statistics the figures for the year 1913 have been given purposely in preference to those of subsequent years, as being more representative of the zinc industry under normal conditions. In many cases later figures are not procurable, some of the belligerent nations having ceased to issue them since 1914. Due consideration has, however, been given to the very marked influence of the war on the zinc industry.

A bibliography of some of the more important publications relating to the subject is appended.