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ROTHAMSTED
RESEARCH

The Manor of Rothamsted

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THE MANOR OF
ROTHAMSTED
AND ITS OCCUPANTS



Foreword

Right Hon. The Earl of Radnor

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FOREWORD

BY THE
RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF RADNOR
K.C.V.O.

Rothamsted Manor, the lovely ancestral home of Sir John Bennet Lawes, founder of Rothamsted Experimental Station, lies in the middle of the home-farm, three quarters of a mile from the Laboratories. It was purchased, with part of the estate, in 1934 by the Lawes Agricultural Trust with funds raised by public subscription, but it remained occupied as a private house until the outbreak of war, when it was requisitioned by the military authorities. After its release in 1946 a plan was evolved by the Director, Sir William Ogg, for its use as a Hall of Residence for some of the Rothamsted staff and for the accommodation of visiting scientists: his project has been carried out with financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Pilgrim Trust. It has been a conspicuous success, and the ancient Manor, once again a centre of life and activity, is proving most valuable to the Station and is much appreciated by those who make use of it.

Its history reaches back more than seven hundred years. The purpose of the present volume is to give an account of its owners and inhabitants since the thirteenth century, followed by a section designed to draw the visitor's attention to points of interest as he walks from room to room and to answer the questions which will occur to him.

All friends of Rothamsted will wish to join me in expressing appreciation of the kindness of Sir John Lawes, Bt., in placing on loan at the Manor the portraits of the Wittewronges, which adorned its walls for nearly three centuries. He has also generously consented that the Archives Room at the Laboratories should house the early Wittewronge papers, which have proved so valuable in tracing the history of the Manor and its inhabitants.