THE WORLD OF WALTHER NERNST

The Rise and Fall of German Science

Nernst and Lindemann in Oxford, 1937.

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WALTHER NERNST

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MACMILLAN EDUCATION

ISBN 978-1-349-01918-2 ISBN 978-1-349-01916-8 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-01916-8

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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1973 978-0-333-14895-2

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First published 1973

THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

London and Basingstoke

Associated companies in New York Melbourne

Dublin Johannesburg and Madras

SBN 333 14895 9

Dedicated to the Memory of
F. A. Lindemann, Viscount Cherwell

Contents

Preface	viii
1. Prologue	i
2. Founder Years	8
3. A Place in the Sun	29
4. The Summit	51
5. Glorious Times	77
6. Revolution	94
7. The New Babylon	110
8. Heads Will Roll	144
9. Epilogue	164
Index	185

Preface

The idea for this book first suggested itself when, almost ten years ago, the Humboldt University in East Berlin asked me to deliver a memorial address on the occasion of the centenary of Nernst's birth. Since then I have been helped by discussions with my colleagues, too numerous to be mentioned individually, in trying to recall events of the past. I am particularly grateful to Nernst's surviving daughters, Mrs Edith von Zanthier and Mrs Angela Hahn, for a great deal of information about their parents and ancestors which they gave me both verbatim and in writing, and for making available to me notes made by Emma Nernst. They also supplied the material for many of the plates. Other illustrations were kindly provided by Lady Simon, Mrs L. Meitner-Graff, Professors G. Born, J. Eggert, O. R. Frisch, W. Haberditzl, W. Heisenberg and I. Prigogine, and Drs C. Bosch and F. L. Haber.

Oxford
March 1973

K. M.