

FOREWORD

The interest in investigations of systems with surface active agents has been stimulated by the growth of applications of these compounds. The cooperation of scientists and industry in this field reflects the need for a common approach to a number of unsolved problems. With this in mind, the Yugoslav Committee for surface active agents organized the 4th Yugoslav Symposium on Surface Active Agents, held in Dubrovnik 17—21 October 1977. 247 Participants from 11 countries attended the Symposium. The introductory lecture was given by Professor Bun-ichi Tamamushi (Tokyo University). 33 Lectures were presented by participants from Yugoslavia and 21 by participants from Denmark, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, F. R. Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, USA and USSR. The Scientific Committee (R. Despotović, D. Hršak, V. Johanides, M. Maletić, J. Mičić, B. Švarc and I. Vizovišek) made a selection of 54 lectures and 26 posters for presentation. The lectures and posters are contained in 4 volumes of the Symposium Proceedings (1380 pages) and in the journal *Kemija u industriji* (Zagreb) No. 10 Vol. 26 (1977) pp. 519—594. The Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* accepted for publication 9 papers, according to its criteria, from those selected by the Scientific Committee and submitted to CCA by R. Despotović, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Symposium. The accepted papers were tackled for publication by M. Čebulc and Lj. A. Despotović.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and the readers interested in problems of surface-active-agents systems I would like to express our thanks to the Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* for invaluable editorial work in the course of publication of these papers.

One of the posters from the book prepared for the Symposium is also reproduced here by way of illustrating a manner of preparing a scientific symposium.