PREFACE

The phenomenon of age hardening in aluminium alloys has been discovered just 80 years ago by Alfred Wilm, when he produced the "Duralumin" alloy type. Today age hardenable aluminium alloys are well known as important structural materials due to their favourable properties such as low density, high strength, good electric conductivity, good corrosion resistance, etc. The application of aluminium base materials has been widely proliferated during the last few decades since the degree of purity of the primary aluminium has reached almost 3N. Combining such a base material with additional and/or alloying elements a great variety of material properties can be achieved which can fulfil the users' demands in many different fields. There are, however, special circumstances when aluminium alloys have to meet extreme requirements, e.g. in the aeronautical or in the transport vehicle industry. To meet these requirements is a constant challenge to the research, a recent characteristic result of which is the development of the Li containing class of aluminium alloys.

The present conference is the 4th event of a now more or less regular series of meetings on age hardenable aluminium alloys. In accordance with the increased international interest the range of the subjects discussed at the conference has become wider, especially as far as the development of new types of alloys, the effect of additional or trace elements, the application of modern methods of investigations and the mechanical properties are concerned.

We hope that the scientific results reported in this proceedings will be of interest to the reader dealing with the subject, and as such it can give a contribution to the future development of the field.

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