

The Secretary,
The Institution of Civil Engineers.

DEAR SIR,

"THE MOISTURE CHARACTERISTICS, COMPOSITION, AND STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF A RED CLAY SOIL FROM NYERI, KENYA" *Géotechnique*, 14:3:262-276.

I refer to the Appendix to the Paper by Coleman, Farrar and Marsh which appeared on pp. 275 and 276 of the September number of *Géotechnique*. The agreement between the geological evidence and the age of the red soil as calculated in the Appendix is quite striking.

The final stage of the calculation is dependent on the choice of the limits of the amount of water passing through the soil profile in a year. It would be of interest to know the basis of the choice of the range between 1 and 20 cm/year.

If these limits are of the right order for the present climate it could be inferred that the long-term averages of rainfall and evaporation today are a fair representation of the averages over a period of at least 180,000 years and which may extend back for millions of years, despite wide fluctuations in climate ranging from desert to pluvial conditions intermediately.

No allowance seems to have been made in the calculations for losses of soil by erosion and a comment by the Authors on the importance or otherwise of this factor would be welcome.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DIXON

Howard Humphreys & Sons
Reading, Berks.
22 October, 1964.

BOOK REVIEWS

Proceedings of the "Conference on grouts and drilling muds in engineering practice"

Publishers: Butterworths, London, 1964, Price £6 15s.

The Proceedings of the Conference on grouts and drilling muds in engineering practice, organized by the British National Society of the I.S.S.F.M.E. and held at the Institution of Civil Engineers in May 1963, have now been published.

The book contains the thirty papers presented to the first symposium to be held in Great Britain. Together with the discussions they aroused, these papers from six countries, provide engineers with a unique opportunity to benefit from the most up-to-date information on grouting techniques.

"Russia, my native land" by Professor G. P. Tschebotarioff

Published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, London and New York, price \$6.95 (54s.).

Readers of *Géotechnique* will be interested to learn that Professor G. P. Tschebotarioff has written his autobiography under the above title. It describes his life from childhood in Imperial Russia and service with a Don Cossack artillery unit during the First World War to the day in 1959 when, as an American engineer in an exchange delegation, he returned to his native land.

This book may be consulted in the Institution Library.