



Fig. 1

The weight of the soil was 95 lb/cu. ft, and q_u was between 500 and 600 lb/sq. ft. Assuming a failure plane at 45° to the axis and which starts at the bottom of the sample, the average vertical pressure on the plane due to the weight of the sample above it is 107 lb/sq. ft. An axial stress of 500–600 lb/sq. ft is required to cause a failure in compression so that the weight must be increased between 4.7 and 5.6 times. Thus the acceleration required to cause failure is 4.7 to 5.6 times g .

This is an interesting example of what has been called 'the thirty year cycle'. Today many things are being invented which were first thought of thirty years ago in the early days of our subject, but were not developed to the point where they could be published. Where could they have been published? *Géotechnique* did not exist.

REFERENCES

- COOLING, L. F. & GOLDER, H. Q. (1942). The analysis of the failure of an earth dam during construction. *Jnl Instn Civ. Engrs* **19** (Dec.) 38–55.
- LYNDON, A. & SCHOFIELD, A. N. (1970). Centrifugal model test of a short term failure in London clay. *Géotechnique* **20**, No. 4, 440.

BOOK REVIEW

Ancient sedimentary environments. R. C. Selley. 237 pp. Chapman and Hall, London, 1970. £2.25.

The aim of this book is to indicate that distinctive types of sedimentary rock, arranged in definite patterns, occur in a given sedimentary environment. This concept of the orderly nature and distribution of sediments is of importance in the understanding and utilization of sedimentary rocks, not only in oil and gas exploration but also in ground water and site investigation, and general civil engineering. The book is divided into carefully chosen chapters in which a specific sedimentary environment, for example the deposits of rivers, is discussed. Each chapter is followed by a useful list of references. The book contains many clear diagrams, maps and photographs which ably support the well-documented text.

F.T.H.