

Concrete Research

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Editorial comment

TO BE OF ANY REAL VALUE, the results obtained by research workers must be made available to those who can apply them; it is of little use for research to be conducted behind closed doors, and the knowledge and experience gained shared only with other workers in similar fields. For this reason, to transmit knowledge gained in the field of concrete technology is the main object of the *Magazine of Concrete Research*, and we only regret that the space available does not allow us to publish more of the papers submitted.

It is obvious that not all the research carried out can be reported on these pages; indeed, the curious situation is that many of the *major* research projects are not reported at all! One reason for this is that research

organizations such as the Building Research Station, the Road Research Laboratory, and the Cement and Concrete Association themselves publish reports on major investigations, some of which are as long as whole issues, of this Magazine. Obviously such reports deserve as wide publicity as possible, and in an attempt to ensure this we intend to include in future issues brief notes reporting the barest essentials of a few of them, leaving those who are interested to pursue the matter further by obtaining copies of the full reports.

During the several years which many research investigations take to complete, results may be obtained which would be of immediate use to the practising engineer could he but know of them. The research worker, however, is generally reluctant to rush into print with his preliminary results—and quite rightly: later results may lead him to modify the opinions he holds to begin with, and he naturally does not want to contradict himself in print.

Moreover, the pressure on space in the technical and scientific journals is such that reports of completed projects are accepted for publication much more readily than are interim reports. This is in some ways unfortunate because an engineer with a problem may find even tentative results of more use than the promise of an answer in a few years' time; his structure has to be built now, and his client will not wait until a major research project has reached the stage of publication some time in the nebulous future. Furthermore, other research workers engaged on similar problems may be able to contribute their experience, adding much to the value of the over-all project. We hope, therefore, that where investigations have reached an appropriate stage we shall be able to report brief details of them, so that those

interested—whether they be engineers or other scientists—can get in touch with the research workers concerned, and thus reduce the delay before the results are put to practical use.

Some sacrifice must obviously be made to include even the brief reports that are envisaged, and we are reluctant to reduce the number of pages devoted to full reports of researches. It has been decided, therefore, that the *Editorial comment* shall itself report such matters, and these two pages will contain the notes on current or major researches. But not always ! When we really cannot refrain from discussing matters more general, we shall revert to our previous habit; but we trust this will not happen too often, and that this new feature will be welcomed by our readers.