

MAGAZINE OF CONCRETE RESEARCH

Volume 18, Number 55 : June 1966 : Price Five Shillings

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Printed and published four times a year by the Cement and Concrete Association

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Editorial comment

SINCE ANYONE CAN MAKE CONCRETE—that is, anyone can mix together some sand, cement and water and leave the resulting mass to harden—the idea of attending *training courses* to learn about concrete must have seemed quite extraordinary to many when these were inaugurated in 1950 by the Cement and Concrete Association. However, from the rapid progress which took place and the prestige which was quickly won, it is clear that the incredulous were soon a minority group. Seventeen courses were given in that first year and this number has grown to its present level of more than forty a year. In 1957, the existing Training Centre was opened at Wexham Springs, offering residential and lecturing facilities for up to 36 participants. But the demand for places continued to grow and, although this was partly solved by increasing the numbers admitted (the extra being, of course, non-residential), it was obvious that a longer-term solution would have to be found.

The new Training Centre—which will begin operating in March of next year—is situated in the 40-acre estate of Fulmer Grange, adjacent to the Wexham Springs Research Station. It includes: accommodation for 160 participants in study bedrooms each with its own bathroom, four lecture theatres with tiered seating for 30, 40, 50 and 200 people, four seminar rooms, three large teaching laboratories, six small laboratories, a teaching drawing office and workshops, as well as a dining room, lounges and other recreational facilities.

Apart from making it possible to run more courses similar to those offered in the past, the new Centre has been particularly designed to enable courses longer than a week to be offered. The first of these, 'Reinforced and prestressed concrete design for engineers', a one-month course planned for 30 October

to 24 November 1967, is intended for the young engineer who has just completed his full-time college studies and is now beginning work in a design office. It should prove a stimulating venture.

The new Centre will also be available for hire as a Conference Centre at week-ends. In addition to the facilities mentioned above and the natural advantage of its beautiful setting in the Buckinghamshire countryside, it is near the M4 motorway, which leads to London Airport (Heathrow) as well as London itself, and the A40, and there are frequent train services from London to Slough, Uxbridge and Gerrards Cross.

Inquiries, whether regarding the training courses for 1967 or about the booking of the Centre for conferences, should all be addressed in the first instance to:

The Registrar

The Conference and Training Centre of the
C & C A

Fulmer Grange

Fulmer

SLOUGH

Bucks

The telephone number for inquiries is Fulmer 212, and the Telex number is 84352.

Naturally, as the Training Centre expands, so the problems of administration and of planning and dovetailing the courses (four courses will be run simultaneously) increase in number and complexity. Consequently, in order to be able to devote all his energies to this task, Ralph P. Andrew, the Editor of the *Magazine* since 1951 and for the past four years also Principal of the Training Centre, has relinquished his post as Editor. His successor is Anthony E. Brooks who has been assistant editor since 1953.