

Concrete Research

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Editorial comment

SEPTEMBER IS LIKELY to prove a busy month for those whose duty and desire it is to keep abreast of current opinion in the field of civil engineering. Three conferences are to be held all within a period of little over a fortnight. Unfortunately the first two do in fact overlap, and those particularly interested in concrete will find their choice a difficult one to make.

The papers presented at such conferences can of course be digested at leisure, but it is generally recognized that the principal value of these meetings lies not so much in the papers themselves as in the informal discussions which take place outside the walls of the lecture halls, and in the personal contacts which are made.

The three attractions during September are the Prestressed Concrete Congress, the Building Research Congress, and the Symposium on Prestressed Concrete Statically Indeterminate Structures.

The Prestressed Concrete Congress, to be held at Ghent (Belgium) from the 10th to the 13th of September,

is being organized by Professor Magnel as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of the Association des Ingénieurs sortis des Ecoles Spéciales de Gand. The Celebrations themselves commence on Saturday, September 8th, and provide an attractive leavening to the more serious technical sessions. Details of the papers to be presented have not yet been received, but the Congress will no doubt provide an opportunity to hear of the latest developments which Professor Magnel has achieved in the system of prestressing which bears his name. Monsieur Freyssinet is also expected to attend, and the presence of the two leading exponents of prestressed concrete will no doubt attract a large audience to hear their authoritative views.

Coincident with the Ghent Congress is the Building Research Congress, organized by the Building Research Station, to be held in London from the 11th to the 20th of September. As the Congress takes place during the Festival of Britain, members will also have an opportunity of seeing the various exhibits in connexion with the Festival.

The technical sessions of the congress have been arranged in three divisions which will hold concurrent meetings. Division 1 covers the engineering and structural aspects of building, division 2 is concerned with the building materials themselves, and division 3 deals with the various factors which influence the comfort and efficiency of the people using the buildings.

The important days—as far as concrete technologists are concerned—are Thursday and Friday, the 13th and 14th of September. On the Thursday, the subject of concrete forms one of five sections under the general heading “The influence of modern research on structural design,” the four papers to be presented consisting of one from Sweden, two from Great Britain and one from Denmark.

Cement and concrete is the biggest of seven sections in the session devoted to building materials taking place on the Friday. This section includes papers from the U.S.A., Great Britain and France, and deals with such

problems as quality control, durability, and methods of curing.

The Building Research Congress, which is the first of its kind ever to be held, will provide an excellent opportunity for those interested in building to meet and review the progress made in research in relation to architecture, building, and the associated branches of civil engineering. It is hoped that the papers presented will reflect the widespread interest shown in the subject since the end of the war, and point the way in which future research should be directed.

The third event in September is the Symposium on Prestressed Concrete Statically Indeterminate Structures, to be held in London on Monday and Tuesday, the 24th and 25th of September. This is being organized by the Cement and Concrete Association in conjunction with the Prestressed Concrete Development Group.

The papers will deal with both the practical and the theoretical aspects of continuous and redundant structures built of prestressed concrete, and will include two papers on the methods of treatment applied in Belgium and France respectively.