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Editorial comment

SEVERAL ANXIOUS READERS, disturbed by the *Editorial comment* in the March issue, have wondered whether *MCR*, in its eagerness to probe a little further into the processes of design and construction, was about to desert more fundamental research. We hope that they will be partly reassured to find, on turning to the first paper in this issue, that we are still pleased to publish papers that look at very fundamental properties from a new point of view, and further on that there is still room for theoretical papers. However, we are unrepentant about suggesting that concrete research should properly take into account what happens to the completed material and the structures built with it. For this reason, we are glad to accede to a request to give early publicity to a forthcoming conference which, although by no means confined to concrete, is prepared to examine finished buildings critically.

A Conference on The Performance of Building Structures, sponsored by the University of Glasgow, the Paisley College of Technology and the Institution of Structural Engineers, will be held in Glasgow from 31 March to 1 April 1976. The aim of the conference is to stimulate interest in the satisfactory performance of modern buildings and to provide a forum for discussion of associated problems and appropriate solutions.

The design of buildings does not always take into account effects which can lead to significant deformations and stresses resulting in damage. For example, creep, shrinkage and thermal effects, differential foundation movements, local collapse, and dynamic loading, may appreciably affect the performance of a building. Engineers and architects are aware of the problems associated with these effects, but there is a definite need for more information which could lead to improved design.

Papers relevant to the aims of the conference are invited on the following general areas of interest:

- (1) creep, shrinkage, and thermal effects;
- (2) foundation movements;
- (3) the effect of non-structural elements;
- (4) local collapse;
- (5) dynamic loading.

It is intended that the majority of papers should have a practical content. Contributions of the following types would be welcome:

- (1) papers which correlate calculations and observations of building movements;
- (2) papers based on analyses which give insight into the parameters which affect the performance of buildings;
- (3) methods of design and construction which take into account the above effects;
- (4) papers, which may be shorter, describing case records of building movements and methods of monitoring the movements.

Full-length papers should not exceed 4,000 words.

Summaries of papers of not more than 500 words, with diagrams if necessary, should be received not later than 1 January 1975. Preliminary selection will be based on the summary, and final acceptance will follow a review of the complete paper. The closing date for receipt of the manuscript of the complete paper is 1 July 1975.

Further details may be obtained by writing to:

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