

Additional book reviews

Owing to the large number of books received by the Magazine recently, it has not been possible to provide comprehensive reviews of all of them: it is hoped, however, that readers will find the following summaries useful.

Decommissioning 1988

Proceedings of the First International Conference on Decommissioning offshore, onshore and nuclear works, held on 22–24 March 1988 at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology

Editor: I. L. Whyte

London, Thomas Telford Ltd, 1988. 294 × 210 mm. pp. vi, 327. Reproduced typewriting, illustrated, paperback. ISBN 0 7277 1355 8. Price £35.00 (UK). £40.00 (overseas by air).

This volume contains the papers presented at a conference organized by UMIST and the Institution of Civil Engineers North Western Association. The 44 papers deal with the decommissioning and demolition of a very wide range of structures—dams, high-rise buildings, industrial plant and structures, offshore platforms, ship wrecks and pipelines, among others. Special techniques (such as abrasive water jetting, stress wave fracture, explosive techniques, and remote manipulative devices) are described in a number of papers. Only a handful deal specifically with concrete structures, although naturally many of the structures discussed, such as nuclear plants, contain concrete.

To the non-specialist reader, the volume gives a fascinating picture of practical, engineering problems

being tackled in often difficult or hazardous conditions. To the specialist engineer involved in demolition and decommissioning of such structures, this book will be invaluable, especially for the many case studies presented, and the general papers dealing with planning and health and safety aspects.

The presentation of the papers, using the authors' typescripts, is generally quite good, but the cover is not likely to withstand long-term handling and use. As so often with proceedings produced at the time of a conference, there is unfortunately no index.

Structural masonry designers' manual

W. G. Curtin, G. Shaw, J. K. Beck and W. A. Bray

Oxford, BSP Professional Books, Second Edition 1987. 292 × 207 mm. pp. xiv, 488. Typeset, illustrated, hardback. ISBN 0 632 01888 7. Price £45.00.

This handbook has been revised to take account of the new part of the UK Code of practice for the structural use of masonry, Reinforced and prestressed masonry (BS5628: Part 2) and to include amendments to Part 1 of the Code issued since the book was first published in 1982. Increasing interest in the UK in the structural uses of all forms of masonry in recent years has been helped significantly by W. G. Curtin and his colleagues, through their own design and consultancy work, their research and development activities, and numerous publications such as this massive manual.

Chapters are included on the main structural elements and forms of brick and blockwork, and the

application of reinforcing and post-tensioning. A number of the authors' own structural developments are also included. A feature is a series of step-by-step design examples of typical elements and buildings.

Nordic concrete research Publication No. 6

Edited by the Nordic Concrete
Federation

Norske Betongforening, Kronprinsensgate 17, 0251 Oslo 2, Norway, December 1987. 234 × 171 mm. pp. 254. Reproduced typewriting, paperback. ISSN 0800-6377. Price NOK 150, -.

This is the latest compilation of selected papers on research projects within the fields of concrete technology and design of concrete structures, carried out or concluded during 1987 in Scandinavia, prepared by the Research Committee of the Nordic Concrete Federation. Its format is the same as previous volumes in the series, except that, as well as the papers on particular topics, a register of research activities in Nordic countries 1984-1987 is included. This lists nearly 200 projects, each entry consisting of a title, contact names and addresses, and relevant keywords. It is a most useful source of information on current research, although it would perhaps benefit from an indication of the scale of each project and its planned completion date.

Inevitably the papers in such a compilation cover such a wide range that only a few will be of interest to any one reader, but as a reference volume it is very useful. Topics covered include: alkali activated slag concrete; 'compact reinforced composites': shear capacity of composite beams; alkali-silica reaction; influence of cement fineness on chloride diffusion in hcp; reinforcement for crack control; air-entrained concrete; long-term creep tests; workability of no-slump concrete; computer interactive maturity system; polypropylene fibre reinforcement; pull-out testing; carbonation in blended cement pastes; silica fume cement; deterioration of railway sleepers.

Design of precast concrete structures

F. (Eph.) Bljoger

Chichester, Ellis Horwood Ltd, 1988. 249 × 164 mm. pp. 297. Typeset, illustrated, hardback. ISBN 0 1458 0134 X. Price £45.00. Distributed by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

This book aims to be a practical design manual and a textbook in analysis and design of precast structures.

It deals mainly with large-panel, multi-storey buildings. Topics discussed include: descriptions of precast systems and classification of joints; thermal bending of wall panels; temperature effects in systems of jointed walls; variability of material strength and geometrical errors of assembly; mode of assembly and partial wall-damping; evaluation of crack appearance and deflection. There are numerous design examples, but the practising designer may find that the usefulness of the book is limited by its concentration on panel construction. The high price may also restrict its readership.

Civil engineering practice Volume 1: Structures

Editors: P. N. and N. P. Cheremisinoff
and S. L. Cheng

Basel, Switzerland and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Technomic Publishing AG, 1987. 253 × 203 mm. pp. ix, 814. Typeset, illustrated, hardback. ISBN 0 87762 529 8. Price SFr 330.

This is the first volume of a series of five, the others covering hydraulics, mechanics, geotechnical/ocean engineering, etc. It comprises six sections: reinforced concrete structures; structural analysis; stability; pavement design; wood structures; composites. These are subdivided into 31 chapters written by individual authors from around the world. Some chapters provide a useful overview of particular areas, but most deal with very narrow topics, so that the overall coverage is highly selective. Notable omissions are prestressed concrete, steel and masonry. Although well produced and bound, it is difficult to envisage a market for such a patchy compilation. Further, the series title 'Civil engineering practice' suggests a practical approach to the subject, whereas the emphasis of most of the chapters is on analytical/theoretical design aspects.

Utilization of high strength concrete

Proceedings of a Symposium held in Stavanger,
Norway, 15-18 June 1987

Editors: I. Holland, S. Helland,
B. Jakobsen and R. Lenschow

Tapir Publishers, 7079 Flatåsen, Norway, 1987. 249 × 173 mm. pp. 699. Reproduced typewriting, illustrated, paperback. ISBN 82 519 0797 7. Price \$90, £57, DEM 167, NOK 600.

Research into and practical utilization of high strength