

phonetic spelling, but none has yet been accepted. One dictionary, first published in 1905, was compiled by F. Howard Collins in an attempt to solve the editors' difficulties—the *Authors' and Printers' Dictionary*. This is not a dictionary in the ordinary sense; it includes words which can be spelt in more than one way, indicating a preference. This is a very valuable work, so far as it goes. Although not used by all publishers, it is very widely adopted, probably for the simple reason that it is the only work of its kind. It does not, however—nor indeed could it be expected to—cover the special difficulties met with in technical matter. The biggest thorn in the flesh of a technical editor is probably the abbreviations to be adopted; here the British Standards Institution has made an attempt to standardize abbrevia-

tions and symbols in general use in engineering, but this work is of little use since it is open to different interpretations and leaves the reader with a choice in many cases. In other words one cannot say simply "We follow B.S. 560:1934 for our abbreviations", whereas one can say "We follow the *Authors' and Printers' Dictionary* for our spelling". In practice, of course, each editor adopts his own rules and, indeed, several bodies have published their own house rules for such matters, but these only deal with a narrow specialized field of engineering, chemistry or physics. Until such day as another Bogue or Collins comes along, therefore, and standardizes abbreviations, your editor will no doubt continue to spend his time changing psi to lb/sq.in.

ERRATA

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p. 21. col. 1. line 3. Reference 15 refers to two beams which failed under static loading after completion of a fatigue test to working load.

p. 22. col. 1. last line. For " $\frac{Q}{c_u} = 0.13$ " read " $\frac{Q}{c_u} = 0.15$ "

The subsequent equations are then altered, leading to
Total steel $p = 0.73$ per cent.

p. 23. caption to Figure 17. Add: "provided no tension in concrete at working load is specified."

pp. 46 and 47. The two photographs, but not the captions, should be interchanged.