

Concrete Research

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Professor A. L. L. Baker, D.Sc. M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.

Professor W. Fisher Cassie, Ph.D., M.Sc., F.R.S.E., M.I.C.E.,
M.I.Struct.E.

Professor R. H. Evans, D.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E.,
M.I.Mech.E.

T. W. Parker, Ph.D., F.R.I.C.,

Deputy Director of Building Research, D.S.I.R.

Professor A. D. Ross, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., M.I.C.E.

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD AND EDITOR

Ralph P. Andrew, M.A., Ph.D.

Published three times a year by the
Cement and Concrete Association
52 Grosvenor Gardens
London, S.W.1. Sloane 5255

Editorial comment

ONE OF THE MAIN AIMS of the *Magazine of Concrete Research* is to keep research workers and engineers informed of research work which is being carried out on cement and concrete, by publishing original research papers and by listing in the bibliographical section papers which have appeared in the leading periodicals of the world. Copies of the latter are retained in the library of the Cement and Concrete Association, and anyone interested in reading the original papers is quite free to use the library for this purpose.

Anyone embarking on a new research project requires much more than this, however. His first task is to search the published literature in order to find out what has already been done in his particular field of interest; the carrying out of practical research is an expensive occupation, and the unwitting duplication of experiments obviously ought to be avoided. The intentional duplication

of experiments may sometimes be desirable, but even in this case much time and trouble will usually be saved by a critical examination of the results and the techniques of previous workers. This task of literature research is one which is all too often neglected; whether this is due to the natural inclination of the researcher to get down to the job, or whether it is due to the lack of suitable facilities for literature research is debatable, although the two factors are obviously related. Naturally, if a literature search results in repeated difficulties in obtaining copies of important papers, it will only lead to a sense of frustration and a resulting disinclination to proceed further in this direction before starting on the experimental work.

It is essential, therefore, that the centres of research should have first-class libraries, and in this connexion it is pleasing to note that one of the requirements of the centres of technological education mentioned in the recent White Paper is that they should have such facilities. Nevertheless it is obviously impossible for all such libraries to contain all the information likely to be required by everyone in the locality, and specialized libraries have an important role to play. The Cement and Concrete Association is alive to its responsibilities in this direction, and is keen to help all it can. Its library is one of the most comprehensive in its field in this country—if not in the world. More than 250 British and foreign periodicals are taken regularly, and the important articles on cement and concrete are indexed in subject files. Any important new books on cement or concrete are added to the library's collection. All these are freely available to visitors. The library is open from 9.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and anyone is free to come in and "browse"; the library staff will be pleased to seek out articles on specific subjects, although in the case of an extensive literature search it would be a help if notice could be given.

A further facility is available to the research worker; the Association's library is prepared to produce, for

responsible enquirers, bibliographies on specific subjects connected with cement or concrete. Thus anyone embarking on a research programme is invited to contact the library either personally or, if more convenient, by letter, detailing the subjects in which he is particularly interested; the library will then prepare a list of references on these subjects, all of which will be available for consultation in the library.

The facilities available are not for the research worker

alone, however. Research results are not reported for the sole benefit of other research workers; to be of any value they must eventually find some practical application. The designer, the contractor, the architect, the engineer—all can profit from the findings of others, and all are welcome to spend time in the C & C A library. Before rushing to do a job, it is always profitable to spend some time in thinking how to do it, or in finding out how others have solved similar problems.