

LEADING ARTICLE

The 3rd World Conference on Earthquake Engineering in New Zealand in 1965 provided a shot in the arm for local engineers, scientists and architects. The presentation of the many, varied papers and, just as important, the associations formed with the visiting overseas delegates (many of world wide repute in the field of earthquake engineering) came at a critical stage in New Zealand's building industry. The 100 foot height restriction had recently been lifted and high-rise structures presented many new challenges in engineering and architectural design and in the application of soil mechanics and engineering seismology. This conference, then, provided a means for the study of the latest overseas data and the opportunity for local delegates to discuss their problems with overseas experts.

However, these international conferences are held at four, and sometimes five, yearly intervals. Between conferences there is a hiatus in the flow of information, more especially as far as we in New Zealand are concerned. To bridge the gap between issues of conferences proceedings the new Society will disseminate earthquake engineering information from both overseas and local sources in this quarterly Bulletin. To our knowledge, this is the only periodical in the world devoted entirely to this field.

Although the Society is a technical group of the New Zealand Institution of Engineers, its members are drawn not only from the Institution but also from scientists, architects, insurance officers and others with an interest in earthquakes and earthquake phenomena. Therefore, the Society will publish in its Bulletin technical papers, short articles, reviews and reports of research which will fairly represent the interests of its members and which, moreover, will have a practical, rather than an esoteric, value.

A sub-committee of the Society is already investigating the seismic response of prestressed concrete structures and a report on its findings will be published.

In introducing this new venture in earthquake engineering publication, it is appropriate to pay tribute to a much earlier New Zealand venture into this field. "Earthquake Resistant Structures" was a text book published here in 1940 and written by S. Irwin Crookes Jnr., Consulting Engineer (at that time a Senior Lecturer in Building Construction at the School of Architecture, Auckland University). It was based on the then current Japanese and Californian static design methods, so that today in this age of sophisticated dynamic analysis it would be regarded as "not with it". Nevertheless it served as a "bible" for most of the older generation of New Zealand engineers and architects and the basic principles contained therein are as valid today as when the book was written. A complaint of present day structural designers is the lack of comprehensive text books on earthquake engineering. We are aware of several in the course of preparation or publication and we hope that there will be an early opportunity to review them.

The Management Committee express their grateful thanks to the New Zealand Institution of Engineers, the Earthquake and War Damage Commission and to the foundation members of the Society for the enthusiasm shown and encouragement given in the formation of the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering. To John E. Rinne, President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, Dr. Toshihiko Hisada, Chairman of the Japan National Committee and to Karl V. Steinbrugge, President of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (California, U.S.A.) we extend our thanks for their messages of congratulation and goodwill.

Through the Bulletin, we trust that New Zealand engineers, architects, and scientists will carry on the pioneering work of S. Irwin Crookes and add their part to the world reservoir of earthquake engineering knowledge.

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

JANUARY 13 TO JANUARY 18, 1969

AT SANTIAGO, CHILE

The Second Circular issued by the Conference organising Committee has just been received. It contains the names of Chairmen and Co-Chairmen for the various sessions. It is noted that Mr C. W. O. Turner (an executive Vice-President of the I.A.E.E.) will chair the session on "Design Criteria and Research", Mr R. I. Skinner the session on "Elastic Responses of Structures" and Mr V. A. Murphy (a Director of the I.A.E.E.) has been asked to act as Co-Chairman of the "Small Buildings, Insurance, Damage Repair" session. It contains, also, a Conference Registration Form, a list of selected hotels in Santiago and preliminary details of official post-conference tours.

The Third Circular will contain the programme of official events, further details of official post-conference tours, and the ladies' programme.

The Conference is sponsored by the Government of Chile and invitations are issued to prospective participants to apply for further information to the Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Fourth World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, ACHISINA, Casilla 2777, Santiago, Chile.