Andrew Bond
Honorary Editor

Editorial

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1. BRIEFINGS

Of all the geotechnical journals, Professor Alec Skempton will be most closely associated with *Géotechnique*, which he was instrumental in founding in 1948. Prior to this date, nine papers, 17 discussions, and seven items of correspondence bearing the moniker 'A. W. Skempton' appeared in the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*. Our first briefing lists his legacy to this journal's ancestor and reproduces his first ever paper in *Proceedings* (from 1941), entitled 'Some experiments on the consolidation of clay'.

The bad weather the UK has experienced in recent times has brought many new challenges to geotechnical engineers in this country. Pugh investigates the relationship between the number of insurance claims for foundation subsidence and monthly rainfall levels over the past 30 years. Particularly large rainfall deficits have, historically, produced surges in claims that could become a feature of our increasingly erratic weather.

The penultimate instalment of Dr Penman's essay on the UK's Building Research Station (BRS) covers the years immediately after the Second World War, when the BRS first got involved in the study of the effects of trees on shallow foundations. This was a time of great invention in field apparatus, in particular the use of vibrating wire devices for measuring pore water pressures (see Fig. 1) and prop loads.

2. PAPERS

Winter *et al.* present the results of an investigation into the corrosion of a reinforced earth structure, in which stainless-steel elements reacted with spent oil shale backfill, requiring the wall to be demolished. The placement of ferritic steel in a fill with a high sulphate content led to almost 50% of the elements being corroded, some heavily.

Compensation grouting has become an extremely popular method of reducing ground movement due to tunnelling. Prior to the method's first use in Singapore, a field trial was conducted in a deep stratum of Singapore Marine Clay. Addenbroke *et al.* show that a finite element analysis of the trial can reproduce key features of the field behaviour (see Fig. 2) provided the grout fracture itself is modelled as a drainage boundary.

The third in our series of articles on the Observational Method

Fig. 1. Penman vibrating wire piezometer of 1945

is a paper by Powderham, which presents three case histories featuring the 'progressive modification' approach to risk

6. CALL FOR BRIEFINGS

Geotechnical Engineering is keen to publish Briefings on any topic of interest to a wide audience of geotechnical engineers. Briefings should be short (approximately 1000 words in length), to the point, and may well be controversial! Each briefing is peer-reviewed by a sub-committee of the Editorial Panel on a fast-track system. This, we hope, will keep the material topical and encourage authors to submit material for publication.

management. The author argues that simple measurements are central to resolving complexity and controlling risk and that the Observational Method promotes innovation in several important ways. This paper follows those by Peck on early examples of the Observational Method¹ and Beadman *et al.* on construction of the Copenhagen Metro.²

Our final paper returns to the subject of reinforced soil walls, in particular a 20 m high anchored wall between Grenoble and Valence in France. Monnet and Allagnat explain how the wall was designed using the results of field pressuremeter tests and laboratory triaxial tests of the local sandy gravel.

3. DISCUSSION

We have three pieces of discussion this issue. Marsh comments on Clayton's paper on managing geotechnical risk;³ Trenter discusses Charles and Skinner's paper on the compressibility of foundation fills;⁴ and Suckling addresses Day's paper on earth pressure on cantilever walls at design retained heights.⁵

4. CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

I am pleased to welcome Jens Gravgaard of Ramboll in Denmark as our newest Corresponding Member.

5. CHANGE IN PANEL MEMBERS

This is the time of year when one-third of the editorial Advisory Panel stands down in favour of new blood. On behalf of the readership and my fellow Panel members, I would like to thank Andrew Ridley, Darren Russell and Michael Sampson for all their hard work over the past three years, assessing papers, writing book reviews, chairing sub-committees, and helping in many other ways to shape the content of this journal. I am particularly grateful to Andrew, Darren and Michael for supporting the initiatives we have introduced in order to make *Geotechnical Engineering* a practice-based, must-read journal for geotechnical professionals.

I am very pleased to welcome onto the Panel: Richard Driscoll of BRE; Dr Ed Ellis of Mott MacDonald; Dr John McKinley of the University of Wales, Cardiff; and Nick Wharmby of Bachy-Solétanche.

If you are interested in raising an issue within the pages of this journal, please contact me (via andrew.bond@geocentrix.co.uk) to discuss the best way to get your ideas published.

7. NEXT ISSUE

We have the final part of Dr Penman's essay on the Building Research Station; papers on three-dimensional effects in constructing a long retaining wall and the use of pulverised fuel ash as general fill; plus another round-up of geotechnical papers in the Institution's journals.

REFERENCES

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