Book reviews

Concrete according to German Standards

Production, Testing, Quality control

Published by Beton-Verlag GmbH, Dusseldorf, 1977. Type-set, illustrated, paperback. A5. pp. 73. ISBN 3 7640 0107 0. Price: DM 19.80.

This booklet summarizes a wealth of information on concrete technology culled from various German standards, regulations and recommendations. The scope includes the constituents of concrete, concrete mixes for a wide range of applications, the properties of concrete and reinforcement and the production, quality control and testing of concrete.

The booklet will be of value to most English-speaking concrete technologists. Those familiar with British Standards and practice will recognize similarities, but will be particularly interested in differences in approach and in data which do not appear in British documents. The booklet will, therefore, provide ideas for those responsible for drafting British standards, codes and recommendations, as well as helping those on international committees to

understand points of view expressed by their colleagues. The booklet will also be of great assistance to British engineers co-operating – or competing – with their German counterparts.

It is to be hoped that the publishers will revise the booklet from time to time to keep it in line with standards as they are amended. They might then take the opportunity to improve it by indicating the source of all the information and might also allow a British engineer to comment upon some problems caused by slight imperfections in the translation and on some other difficulties in interpreting the many Tables of data. The publishers do, however, deserve considerable gratitude for the service which the booklet, packed with information, will provide for English-speaking readers.

W. E. MURPHY

Composite construction methods

John P. Cook

Published by John Wiley & Sons, London, New York, Sydney and Toronto, 1977. Type-set, illustrated, hardback. 234 × 158 mm. pp. xvi, 330. ISBN 0 471 16905 6. Price: £16.50/US \$27.95. A Wiley-Interscience Publication.

This book sets out to cover a whole range of methods of composite construction from the conventional steel-concrete, for buildings and bridge decks, to the far from common timber-concrete bridge. The longest section by far, nearly 90 pages, is that dealing with steel-concrete composite construction, reflect-

ing the importance of this form of construction in America. The various forms are well described and illustrated, with a number of worked examples. By contrast, concrete-concrete composite beams are covered in only 20 pages, prestressed beams only being mentioned in passing. Thus the book is of little