Additional book reviews

Owing to the large number of books received by the Magazine recently, it has not been possible to provide comprehensive reviews of all of them: it is hoped, however, that readers will find the following summaries useful.

Decommissioning 1988

Proceedings of the First International Conference on Decommissioning offshore, onshore and nuclear works, held on 22–24 March 1988 at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology

Editor: I. L. Whyte

London, Thomas Telford Ltd, 1988. 294 × 210 mm. pp. vi, 327. Reproduced typewriting, illustrated, paperback. ISBN 0 7277 1355 8. Price £35.00 (UK). £40.00 (overseas by air).

This volume contains the papers presented at a conference organized by UMIST and the Institution of Civil Engineers North Western Association. The 44 papers deal with the decommissioning and demolition of a very wide range of structures—dams, high-rise buildings, industrial plant and structures, offshore platforms, ship wrecks and pipelines, among others. Special techniques (such as abrasive water jetting, stress wave fracture, explosive techniques, and remote manipulative devices) are described in a number of papers. Only a handful deal specifically with concrete structures, although naturally many of the structures discussed, such as nuclear plants, contain concrete.

To the non-specialist reader, the volume gives a fascinating picture of practical, engineering problems

being tackled in often difficult or hazardous conditions. To the specialist engineer involved in demolition and decommissioning of such structures, this book will be invaluable, especially for the many case studies presented, and the general papers dealing with planning and health and safety aspects.

The presentation of the papers, using the authors' typescripts, is generally quite good, but the cover is not likely to withstand long-term handling and use. As so often with proceedings produced at the time of a conference, there is unfortunately no index.

Structural masonry designers' manual

W. G. Curtin, G. Shaw, J. K. Beck and W. A. Bray

Oxford, BSP Professional Books, Second Edition 1987. 292 × 207 mm. pp. xiv, 488. Typeset, illustrated, hardback. ISBN 0 632 01888 7. Price £45.00.

This handbook has been revised to take account of the new part of the UK Code of practice for the structural use of masonry, Reinforced and prestressed masonry (BS5628: Part 2) and to include amendments to Part 1 of the Code issued since the book was first published in 1982. Increasing interest in the UK in the structural uses of all forms of masonry in recent years has been helped significantly by W. G. Curtin and his colleagues, through their own design and consultancy work, their research and development activities, and numerous publications such as this massive manual.

Chapters are included on the main structural elements and forms of brick and blockwork, and the