Book review

Urban Drainage, 3rd edn

D. Butler and J. W. Davies, Spon, London, UK, 2011,
ISBN 978 0 415 45526 8, **£35.00, 625 pp.**

The Pitt report on major flooding in the UK stated that there should be a 'better understanding of each local authority's drainage and watercourse system' and that 'Local authorities should assess and, if appropriate, enhance their technical capabilities to deliver a wide range of responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management' (Pitt, 2008).

The latest edition of *Urban Drainage* is therefore a welcome resource. The text is aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students of water, environmental and public health engineering, but it should prove equally valuable to practising engineers who need to get to grips with all aspects of water management within their area. This is important because, as the Pitt review noted, 'the last twenty or thirty years have seen the technical departments of local authorities significantly diminished and in some cases closed or merged'. It is likely that more than a few municipal engineers will need to refresh their knowledge and understanding of drainage.

The book is divided into 25 chapters that cover most aspects of urban drainage, the missing element being groundwater flooding, although this is arguably more a rural issue rather than an urban concern.

Three, short, opening chapters set the historical background of waterborne disease in cities, the development of drainage systems

and water quality standards. The major portion of the book then concerns itself with wastewater and stormwater systems. All aspects of waste and stormwater are analysed and discussed, from storm modelling through to the hydraulic performance of piped and pumped systems, sewage treatment and operation and maintenance. Individual chapters also cover rehabilitation, flow modelling and stormwater management, including sustainable urban drainage systems (Suds) applications.

Despite the fact that the book is aimed at a readership who will practice in developed countries, one short chapter does address low-income countries, although this chapter is more of an introduction than a detailed treatment of the topic.

One of the most valuable features of the book is that each chapter ends with a very comprehensive list of key sources and references for further information. These lists, alone, could easily justify the purchase in the time saved to identify the appropriate standards.

Each chapter also contains a series of worked examples and questions to consolidate knowledge. Although it is not stated within the text, worked answers are available on the publisher's website.

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REFERENCE

Pitt M (2008) *The Pitt Review: Lessons Learned from the 2007 Floods*. Cabinet Office, The National Archives, London, UK.