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3. COOK, N. G. W. *Practical rock mechanics for gold mining*. Chapter 2, pp. 18-29.
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6. WAGNER, H. Principles of support of tabular excavations. *Course on use of rock mechanics; Principle in practical underground mine design*. Johannesburg, University of Witwatersrand, 1976.
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Letter from Brigadier R. S. G. Stokes

Brigadier R. S. G. Stokes of Sherborne, Dorset, is the oldest surviving member of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He joined in 1904 and has been a member for 77 years. He served as President of the Institute from 1937 to 1938.

Congratulations and an Institute tie were recently sent to Brigadier Stokes. He replied as follows:

I would thank the Council for the warm and welcome greetings you have sent me on their behalf: indeed a generous message, far beyond the call of by-laws or routine.

It is indeed gratifying to find that our ancient mem-

bers — from 1904 in my case — are not forgotten; even when they reach the stage qualifying them for the historical museum rather than the academic arena of our vitally active Institute.

The valued gift of the Institute silk-tie is greatly appreciated, especially with the rejuvenating glamour it conveys.

May the Institute long prosper in its wide field of Technical and Scientific activities.

Yours sincerely,

RALPH STOKES.

Book review

Sittig, M. *Hand book of catalyst manufacture*. Park Ridge (U.S.A.), Noyes Data Corporation, 1978.

The detailed information in this book is based on patents issued in the U.S.A. that deal with catalysts and their commercial technology.

This volume concentrates on the more important hydrocarbon reactions, and illustrates specific practical examples of the manufacture, handling, and recovery of catalysts. Further, since the field of catalysts is a fast changing one, current developments in the field are reviewed through the 'window' of recent patents, and in this way current industrial developments are described.

Many of these patents are being utilized commercially. The descriptions of patented equipment, whether it is used or not, offer opportunity for technological transfer, and, by indicating the number of technical possibilities available, may open up profitable areas of research and development.

Apart from describing a wide variety of patents under thirteen separate headings, the book deals with general subjects including fixed-bed, moving-bed, fluidized-bed, and liquid-catalyst reactors, as well as the manufacture, pre-treatment, protection from contaminants, loading and unloading, and sampling of catalysts.

D.A.V.

Project management

The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy is to hold a Colloquium on Project Management in the Metallurgical Industry in March 1980.

Papers are now being invited for his colloquium, and

prospective authors should send the titles of proposed papers to the Secretary, South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, P.O. Box 61019, Marshalltown 2107, Transvaal, as soon as possible.

Ingenieurs-in-opleiding in die weermag

Op 'n onlangse vergadering van die Suid-Afrikaanse Raad vir Professionele Ingenieurs is daar besluit om kwytskelding van jaargeld aan geregistreeerde ingenieurs-in-opleiding wat tans met hulle tweejaar nasionale diensplig besig is, te verleen met dien verstande dat

1. aansoek vir sodanige kwytskelding by die Raad

gedoen moet word (Posbus 61019, Marshalltown, Transvaal 2107);

2. dat bewys van sy bevelvoerende offisier aan die Raad voorgelê word; en

3. dat hy jaarliks om sodanige kwytskelding moet aansoek doen.

Engineers-in-training in the army

At a recent meeting of the South African Council for Professional Engineers it was resolved that a remission of annual fees would be granted to registered engineers-in-training who are doing compulsory two-year national service, provided that

1. application is made to the Council for such remission (Box 61019, Marshalltown, Transvaal 2107);
2. proof from a commanding officer is submitted to the Council; and
3. such requests for remission are made annually.

Processing of fine particles

The Society of Mining Engineers of AIME is organizing an International Symposium on Fine Particles Processing, which is to be held in Las Vegas from 24th to 28th February, 1980. The object of the Symposium is to review the state of the art in the processing of fines and ultra-fines, to examine recent advances that have been made in problems in this vital area, and to discuss techniques for the beneficiation and handling of fines.

The following major aspects will be covered:

- Production of fines and ultrafines — grinding, pulverization, crystallization
- Characterization of particles and particle systems — size, shape, porosity, microstructure, surface and bulk composition, electrical charge
- Classification, mixing, and flow — cycloning, conveying, screening, slurry transport, mixing
- Fine particles flotation — modified flotation, column flotation, electroflotation, precipitate flotation, liquid/

liquid flotation (emulsion flotation), adsorbing colloid flotation

- Flocculation, dispersion, and selective flocculation — flocculation, stabilization (dispersion), carrier flotation (ultraflotation), etc.
- High-intensity magnetics and electrostatics — high-gradient, high-intensity, dielectric, and electrostatic techniques
- Agglomeration — green pelletizing, sintering, spherical agglomeration
- Solid/liquid separation — desliming, filtration, thickening, and other dewatering techniques.
- Waste treatment—slime, sludges particulate/gas systems.

All inquiries and communications should be addressed to the Symposium Chairman, P. Somasundaran, Henry Krumb School of Mines, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027, U.S.A.

Economics of precious metals

International Precious Metals Institute announces a Special Course for all interested in economic aspects of today's precious metals. This course is designed for both the layman and the expert; for materials managers, purchasing agents and users, investors, traders, accountants, chemists and engineers; and for the business-minded public. The comprehensive two-day course will be held on 7th and 8th February, 1979, in New York.

The course programme was developed under the Chairmanship of Dr Allen Abrahams of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Attendance will be limited to the first 125 persons who register. The registration fee for members of IPMI is \$150,00, and for non-members \$180,00, which includes lecture and reference notes, and lunch.

The course includes the following:

- Economic structure of the precious metals industry — overall view
- Economics of mining, milling, and refining
- Industrial demand and markets for precious metals
- The monetary role of the precious metals
- Precious metals cash and future market trading
- Tour of Commodities and Exchange Centre
- Symposium on demand and price forecasting — industry projection.

Application for registration should be submitted with the appropriate fee to IPMI Headquarters, Polytechnic Institute of New York, 333 Jay Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, U.S.A.