

**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM  
ON MINE SURVEYING, MINING GEOLOGY  
AND THE GEOMETRY OF MINERAL  
DEPOSITS**

This International Mine-Surveying Conference will take place in Budapest (Hungary) from 5 to 14 June, 1972. Detailed information can be obtained from the Mine-Surveying Working Committee of the Hungarian Mining and Metallurgical Society. Write:

OMBKE Bányamérői Munkabizottság  
Budapest, V.,  
Szabadság tér 17,  
Hungary.

**SYMPOSIUM ON NICKEL**

The 'Gesellschaft Deutscher Metallhütten—und Bergleute' is holding a Symposium on nickel on 24-25 September, 1970 at Wiesbaden, on the occasion of the G.D.M.B. Annual Meeting. Some 24 papers will be presented by metallurgists from many important companies around the world. Information may be obtained from The Secretary, G.D.M.B., Postfach 210, D3392 Clausthal—Zellerfeld, German Federal Republic.

**VISIT TO THE COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC  
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH**

On 23rd June, 1970, members of the Institute visited the C.S.I.R. in Pretoria. More members had booked for this tour but the current flu epidemic caused cancellations which was unfortunate. The visit was organised with military precision, which prevented detailed discussion of any particular subject, but provided a bird's eye view of a large number of interesting projects. The visit was packed with interest for all and those requiring further information were invited to contact the relevant divisions afterwards.

Dr Denkhaus welcomed the delegates and stressed the importance of integrating research efforts with industry's requirements. An excellent colour and sound film was shown which depicted the work of the Rock Mechanics division. This showed very clearly methods used for preparing rock samples and demonstrated the machines

and instruments for the various tests. It made one realise the extent to which this research has been integrated with the actual mining situation. The full-scale experiments underground showed the failure of pillars under applied loads and were very interesting. This is undoubtedly a film which all mining people should see. After the film the rock mechanics laboratories were visited where the actual machines were seen and described.

We then visited the metal and strength mechanics sections where the metallurgists were able to see some interesting experiments and tests. We also visited the Aeronautics Research group where a large 1 000 hp wind tunnel was inspected. We were told enough about this to realise something of the complexities involved in the design and operation of a closed circuit tunnel of this type. The tunnel is used for tests on models which are necessary for the design and modification of aircraft.

After a very excellent lunch at the C.S.I.R. recreation centre, the delegates attended two lectures—one by Mr. Mandersloot of the Chemical Engineering group, who outlined the varied functions of this group and told us something of their work. Of particular interest was the research into the suitability of various South African manganese ores for dry cell batteries. Work on the thickener settlement studies interested the metallurgists.

The second lecture was given by Mr Donaldson of the National Building Research Institute. This Institute has about ten divisions each of which covers a particular aspect of building research. The work of the soil mechanics division was described in detail and illustrated by coloured slides. This was particularly interesting and demonstrated clearly how building failures result from lack of attention to detail of construction where unstable soil conditions exist. Cracks in walls of compound blocks brought the subject home forcibly to the mining delegates. This division has also carried out important work on sinkholes and slimes dams and produced some positive results.

Altogether the visit was most interesting and enjoyable. It was made more worthwhile because the emphasis was on the work being carried out and not on just seeing the laboratories. The Institute is greatly indebted to the C.S.I.R. and its staff for the very excellent arrangements made.

**J.K.E.D.**



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