SYMPOSIUM ON AIR-POLLUTION MEASUREMENT METHODS

INTRODUCTION

By A. T. Rossano, Jr.1

It is generally recognized that air pollution is emerging as one of the most significant and challenging environmental problems of modern society. The many undesirable effects of air pollution on man, his property, and possessions have given rise to an increasing degree of interest and concern on the part of government, industry and the private citizen.

In the past few years a remarkable acceleration in research and investigation activities aimed at developing improved methods and techniques for evaluating the nature, sources, extent, and effects of the various types of atmospheric pollution has taken place. The 1962 ASTM West Coast Meeting provided an opportunity to hold a Symposium on Air-Pollution Measurement Methods.

The purpose of this was to report the latest research and developments in connection with some of the more pertinent technical aspects of the air-pollution problem. The papers cover such topics as the types and concentrations of emissions from fuel-burning, methods for sampling and analyzing airborne particulates and oxides of nitrogen, and the structure and behavior of the atmosphere over a section of the Pacific seacoast. In addition there are papers on the atmospheric lead contributions from motor vehicle exhaust, and the design of a special environmental test facility for studying photochemical air pollution.

The main emphasis in these presentations is on new experimental methods and techniques. While all of the authors are located at West Coast institutions, the information and data presented are of interest and application to the airpollution problem in general.

¹ University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.; Chairman of Symposium Committee