

SYMPOSIUM ON SKID RESISTANCE (1962)

INTRODUCTION

BY W. H. GOETZ¹

This symposium, sponsored by ASTM Committee E-17 on Skid Resistance, directs attention to the problem of measuring the skid resistance of road surfaces. Although considerable effort has been directed to this problem in recent years, its complexity has precluded a straightforward analysis of the factors involved. This symposium is intended to inform and stimulate the interest of those concerned.

Appropriately, the symposium opens with a discussion of the principal factors affecting the measurement of skid resistance of road surfaces. This is followed by a paper which considers procedures for minimizing the variables in equipment

and techniques inherent in performing skid resistance tests with a skid trailer.

Since scientists outside the United States have been concerned with the skid resistance of road surfaces for a longer time and on a more intensive basis than have American interests, it is fitting that the symposium includes papers from Germany and England. The German contribution concerns the effect of speed and wear on the friction properties of highway pavements. The British contribution on the development and performance of the portable skid resistance tester is timely because of the increasing use being made of this equipment in the United States. Evidence of such use is contained in the last paper, which describes the use of the British portable skid resistance tester to measure the slipperiness characteristics of several highway areas not readily measurable by other means.

¹ Professor of Highway Engineering, School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.