

SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT RESEARCH ON BITUMINOUS MATERIALS

INTRODUCTION

BY H. R. SNOKE¹

For a number of years the officers of Committee D-8 on Bituminous and Other Organic Materials for Roofing, Waterproofing, and Related Building or Industrial Uses were aware of significant research being conducted on subjects pertinent to its jurisdiction. A number of these projects were reaching their final stages and it was deemed desirable to establish a symposium in which the results could be discussed, particularly by the members of Committee D-8 and generally by all interested parties. A committee was appointed consisting of S. H. Greenfeld, chairman, L. C. Haack, and J. C. Roediger. Most of the credit for the development of the symposium belongs to this committee. The committee adopted the theme "Recent Research on Bituminous Materials" and carried out the solicitation of papers and the working out, with representatives of the Society, of all of the details concerning their presentation. At a time when it is more customary to disparage the effectiveness of committees in general, our

experience seems to prove that, to develop an effective symposium, one needs only to appoint a good committee at least two years in advance and give it complete responsibility. Certainly Committee D-8 owes a sincere debt of gratitude to this committee. It is regretted only that the members of the committee, all of whom are in the forefront of research on bituminous materials, have not described any of their own researches.

That the papers deal almost entirely with research on asphalt and asphalt products indicates the wide interest in this subject. The fundamental search in each one is for methods to measure and improve the durability of bituminous materials and products, but there is sufficient balance between material and product, and an adequate range in the methods employed with each, to avoid any repetition and to reward this interest. The summary prepared by Mr. Greenfeld lends added emphasis to the importance of the work described in the individual papers.

¹ National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., retired.