

SYMPOSIUM ON METHODS OF TESTING
BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS—1960

INTRODUCTION

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This volume contains four of the five papers presented at a symposium sponsored by Committee E-6 on Methods of Testing Building Constructions held in Washington, D. C., in November 1960. The meetings of the committee and of its subcommittees, as well as the symposium, were arranged to be held at this time and place to coincide with the Fall Meeting of the Building Research Institute. Many of the papers presented at BRI meetings touch upon matters that are under active consideration in Committee E-6 with a view to the development of standard methods of test. This joint meeting enabled those attending the BRI conference to see an ASTM committee at work; at the same time, members of Committee E-6 were encouraged to participate in the BRI sessions.

The papers presented at the symposium were selected to give a general cross-section of some of the current research work that lies behind the formulation of standard methods of test for building constructions. It will be seen that the papers deal with such diverse subjects as the testing of roof constructions under extreme conditions of humidity, the testing of curtain wall construction, the use and testing of brick panel

construction, and the testing of a full-scale roof under loading simulating the snow loads that occur in the northern parts of the United States and in Canada. The fifth paper, by R. K. Cook of the National Bureau of Standards, was a review of testing methods for acoustical transmission through building constructions; unfortunately it is not available for inclusion in this volume, but will be published later.

These five subjects do not exhaust even the main branches of work of Committee E-6, the activities of which have been steadily broadening in response to the demands for standard test methods for use in relation to performance codes. For general information and in order to illustrate the complete scope of this ASTM committee, the four main papers are supplemented by a brief history of the committee and a review of its work to date.

The presiding officers at the Symposium meeting in Washington were Mr. Douglas E. Parsons, Chief of the Building Research Division of the National Bureau of Standards and one of the founder members of Committee E-6, and Robert F. Legget. The committee records its indebtedness to the authors of the papers and to Mr. Parsons, as well as to the officers of the Building Research Institute for facilitating arrangements for the joint meeting.

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