

REVIEW

Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Wind Effects on Buildings and Structures. Edited by K. J. EATON. Cambridge University Press, 1976. 845 pp. £25.00.

This subject should bring together workers in fluid mechanics, meteorology, structures, aeroelasticity and, of course, the practical engineers, consultants and architects. In the main part of the conference 48 papers were presented in five primary subject areas, namely wind structure, static and dynamic loading, dynamic response, environmental effects and measurement techniques. Thus the research workers had ample opportunities for presenting their work. When this conference is compared with previous meetings in this series the immediate reaction, at least of this reviewer, is that the titles of the papers have not changed much over the years but in some areas there have been improvements in the contents. There is now more emphasis on turbulence and its effects and more is known about the structure of the wind. Vortex shedding, not just from circular cylinders, is now better understood and the aeroelastic behaviour of suspension bridges seems to be reasonably predictable.

Regular readers of the *Journal* will not find many papers of interest in these Proceedings. There are some good papers but most of these have been published in more detail elsewhere. What about the engineer who designs buildings? At the end of the conference one day was set aside in which 'research workers explained their work and, in particular, its relevance to practising architects, designers and engineers'. Judging from the discussion of this session this aim was not fulfilled and indeed the main conclusion to be drawn from this conference is that while more work needs to be done there must be great collaboration between the research workers and the practising engineer.

The Proceedings are well produced and most libraries should have a copy since it does give an indication of the present state of the subject. Hopefully the next meeting in Colorado in 1979 will produce fewer papers but with a higher overall standard.

D. J. MAULL