

these buildings with concrete to carry the weight. The fire-proofing of buildings to-day is the biggest problem the authorities have. We do not hear of such fires in England and Germany, simply because they build their buildings very much more fire-proof than we do. This is a very vital question in this country. While we think our buildings are of fire-proof construction, yet we must bear in mind that we are poorer in this country and cannot put as much money in our buildings and in running to cheapness, we are subject to fires. The point I would like to ask about is, will concrete stand fire as well as first class brick work or terra cotta coverings?

Mr. Nourse,—

From actual tests they show that concrete will stand a better test than terra cotta or brick. In Chicago a test was made. They built a small building of concrete and heated it up to a high temperature, and after heating for several hours they turned a stream of water on it to find out how it would be affected by it. It only went in it one-quarter inch, and they had a load on the top of it of—600 pounds per square foot. It deflected slightly in the heating but came back after cooling. In terra cotta work it stands up well under heat but as soon as you throw water on it, it cracks and no longer protects the steel work.

Mr. Wickens,—

That is not likely to occur in brick protection?

Mr. Nourse,—

Well burnt brick is pretty nearly fireproof. The idea of using terra cotta is that it is light and used where they wish structural work covered. With concrete it is poured around the beams and cannot crack away on account of the metal mesh which is used.

Mr. Herring,—

There were some splendid examples of fireproof qualities of buildings in the San Francisco fire. In one case where a large warehouse was attacked by fire, the damage was really caused by one of the reinforced beams giving way and bursting through the wall of the warehouse. The damage was not on account of the cement but through the beam falling.

Mr. Acton Burrows,—

After the liberal dose of taffy which you handed out to me at the beginning of the meeting, I am almost afraid to get up. However I am simply going to content myself in moving