

The Ventilation of Public Sewers.—By John S. Brodie, member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Incorporated Association of Municipal and County Engineers, and also a Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute. This book is published by The St. Bride's Press, Limited, 24 Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., England. Pages 170. Size 6 x 9.

The ventilation of sewers is without doubt one of the most vexed questions of sanitary engineering, and it is safe to say that there has been the least progress made in it of any of the engineering problems.

This book is a compilation of the opinions of the most eminent sanitary engineers, and also giving a description of many of the past and present systems of sewer ventilation. Chapter I. gives a brief history of sewer ventilation. Chapter II. discusses fully the question, "Is the Ventilation of Sewers Necessary." Chapter III., the ventilation by natural air currents is very thoroughly dealt with, giving special attention to house traps, open manhole tops and ventilation shafts. It also gives the review of conclusions and recommendations of the prominent city engineers. Chapter IV., sewer ventilation by artificially produced air currents. The methods discussed are Gas Burning Vents and Electric Fans; also giving illustrated drawings of each. Chapter V. contains an interesting discussion on Deodorization of Sewer Gas, giving a description of two successful types. Chapter VI.: This chapter deals with the comparative costs of the various systems of ventilation now in use. Chapter VII. reviews all the other chapters.

The appendix consists of extracts from the best English sanitary journals, setting out the pros and cons of the different methods of ventilation.

From the perusal of this book one gets a clear and brief idea of the experiments on sewer ventilation and the results are well worth noting.

W.R.W.

Concrete System.—By Frank B. Gilbreth, M. Am. Soc. M.E. Published by the Engineering News Publishing Co., 220 Broadway, New York. Bound in full flexible morocco, 8½ x 11 inches, 184 pp. 220 illustrations. Price \$5 net.

This is one of the best works of its kind that we have seen. The subject of systems in concrete work has been arranged by the author in the form of printed instructions. As is stated in the preface, it is neither a text-book nor a treatise. The various subjects have not only been arranged in a convenient and easily accessible manner, but the information is of such a practical nature as to be found useful and instructive, chapter by chapter. The publishers' preface says: "The question of cents and dollars to gain or lose and a business reputation to preserve or injure dominated every line drawn or written in this work." The work is an accumulation of good, practical knowledge along lines pertaining to concrete buildings. There is no set order of classification or arrangement of the subjects in hand, the instructions being arranged almost like a report, in which the subject is arranged in a manner that should be much appreciated by the practical concrete contractor. The author in addition has added standards for testing cement, the most used specifications for cement, code of rules for conducting fire tests of concrete constructions, with a specimen test report, and other practical information of this nature. The work, which is profusely illustrated, handsomely bound and printed, is the best of its kind we have yet seen.

A. E. U.

Calculator.—Designed by Major B. Baden-Powell. Published by Knowledge Office, 27 Chancery Lane, W.C., London. Price, \$1.00.

While not professing to be an absolutely exact calculating machine, this simple appliance ought to prove of the greatest use in everyday life. It is so simple in action, so compact, and yet so reliable, that it should find a place on the writing table of all those who have frequent calculations to make.

Not only does it enable one to very rapidly obtain approximate results, even with large figures, in multiplication and division, but for those who have to deal with foreign measures and wish to know, almost at a glance, the equivalent in English measures, this should prove unequalled. One advantage of this form of apparatus may be noted, that any

special measures which have to be converted, such as Roubles to Pounds, Carats to Grains, or Kilowatts to Horse-power, can be temporarily marked on the card.

The equivalent fractions of decimals, proportions, and square roots are also easily found.

It is made of heavy white cardboard and the press work is well done. Size, 8 x 8.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Major Hodgins' Charges.—Proceedings of the Special Committee appointed to investigate Major Hodgins' charges regarding over-classification of materials in the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway. Size, 6 x 9, pages 500.

Conrad and White Horse Mining District.—By D. D. Cairnes. A report on the mining possibilities of the district, with contoured topographical and geological maps accompanying. Size 6 x 9, pages 38.

Landslide.—A report by R. W. Ellis, LL.D., on the landslide at Notre Dame de la Salette, Lievre River, Quebec. Map. Size 6 x 9, pages 20.

Quebec Bridge.—Report of the Select Committee appointed to investigate the conditions and guarantees under which the Dominion Government paid moneys to the Quebec Bridge Co. Thos. B. Flint, Clerk of the House. Size 6 x 9, pages 200.

Rolling Lift Bridges.—The Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Co., Chicago, U.S.A., send a book which is more than a catalogue. The book is well illustrated, and gives views of many designs of lift bridges, also outline drawings showing the main members and dimensions of many of their bridges. Size 6 x 10, pages 120. Fully illustrated.

Report on Steel Rails.—Bulletin No. 102 of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association, being the preliminary reports of Committees on Rail, specifications for drop-testing machine and specimen rail record blanks. E. H. Fritch, secretary, 962 Monadnock Block, Chicago, Ill.

CATALOGUES.

Boiler Compound.—The Bird-Archer Co., 90 West Street, New York, are distributing a 50-page booklet for steam users. It gives concisely the cause and effect of boiler troubles, and points out the Archer method of prevention.

Coal Tipples.—The Jeffrey Manufacturing Co., of Columbus, Ohio, in Bulletin No. 22, give illustrations and line drawings of a large number of coal storage plants; also their conveying and elevating machinery. Size 6 x 9, pages 50.

Chain.—The Weldless Chains, Limited, of 62 Old Broad Street, London, E.C., in their booklet, "The Very Last Word on Chains."

Perforated Metal.—The Allis-Chalmers-Bullock, Limited, Montreal Que., in Bulletin 1425 tell of the superior qualities of their metal over wire as used in screens of all kinds. Illustrations given of various patterns and sizes.

Reinforced Concrete Pipe.—The Reinforced Concrete Pipe Co., of Jackson, Mich., send a handsome catalogue of some eighty pages illustrating various installations of their reinforcement. They also give the results of several tests. Size 9 x 12.

Boiler Troubles and Their Prevention is the title of a 48-page treatise just issued by the Bird-Archer Co. This book will interest all who own or operate steam boilers, for it explains, corrosion, scale, oil and grease deposits, and what harm they may do. It tells what scale consists of, how it collects, resulting loss in fuel and steaming capacity, dangers from overheating, cost of mechanical cleaning and the advantage of boiler compounds in preventing scale, oil deposit or corrosion. It further discusses every method of water and scale treatment, gives valuable advice on feeding boiler compounds, the care of blow-off valves, etc. Copies may be had free by addressing the Bird-Archer Co., 90 West Street, New York.