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P r e f a c e .

Following an invitation from the German Government, the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering will hold its second Congress in Berlin between October 1st and 8th, 1936. The programme of work for the Congress was drawn up by the Permanent Committee of the Association at its meetings in Stresa (1934) and Brussels (1935). The procedure is the same as that of the first Congress (Paris 1932), a limited number of particularly interesting themes being chosen for discussion. The Congress Programme, and the Table of Contents on the following pages, both contain a list of the Congress Themes: three working meetings will be devoted to the themes concerning steel and reinforced concrete construction respectively, two working meetings to optional papers, and one is reserved for problems on soil research, of interest for both methods of construction.

For every theme the Lecturers of the various countries, appointed with the approval of the technical advisers of the Executive Committee of the Association in conjunction with the German Committee of Organisation, have compiled reports which are presented to the members, before the Congress, in this *Preliminary Publication*. At the actual Congress these Lecturers will not speak, a specially appointed Speaker opening each working meeting by giving a summary of the reports contained in the Preliminary Publication, thus leading up to the discussion. The latter will, in the main, have the form of a prepared discussion. Participants who have given due notice of their wish to take part in the discussion, will treat partly the themes in the reports and partly those details of the themes which touch their own special sphere of work. If the time available is sufficient, the prepared discussion will be supplemented by a free discussion. In the Programme a single half-day working meeting is allotted to each theme. In accordance with the resolutions passed by the Permanent Committee, the working meetings have been so arranged that active participants in the Congress are enabled to take part in the discussions on questions concerning reinforced concrete construction as

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well as on such relating to steel construction. The meetings are conducted by special working commissions composed of a President, four Vice-Presidents, the Speaker and the Secretary-General of the Association for the respective sphere of work. The working commissions formulate the conclusions for every theme, and these are submitted to the Congress members at the final meeting.

The prepared contributions to the discussion, and the conclusions formulated at the Congress, will be collectively published in a Final Report after the Congress. The Final Report will probably appear in the spring of 1937. It will also contain the optional papers read at the Congress.

The present *Preliminary Publication* volume is published by Messrs. W. Ernst & Sohn, Berlin. The excellent printing is the work of Messrs. C. Wolf & Sohn, Munich. In accordance with the decision of the German Committee of Organisation, both Preliminary Publication and Final Report appear in separate German, French and English editions. The editorial work of the present volume was attended to by the two Secretaries-General of the Association. The large number of reports submitted, some of which were quite extensive, led to a considerable increase in the size of the volume as originally planned. A number of the more lengthy papers had to be transferred from the Preliminary Publication to volume 4 of the "Publications" of the Association, which appears simultaneously with this volume of the Preliminary Publications.

The Executive Committee of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering welcomes this opportunity of thanking the German Committee of Organisation for its financing of the Congress reports and assisting in the issue of Volume 4 of the "Publications". Thanks are also due to all the authors for their collaboration. May the Berlin Congress be a further step towards attaining the aims of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering!

Zurich, August 1936.

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