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Preface.

This Final Report on the Second Congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering comprises general papers; contributions to the discussions; conclusions and remarks; a report on the Congress itself; and the more important speeches delivered at Berlin and at the closing ceremony in Munich.

The main portion of the report consists of the general papers and contributions to the discussion presented at the eight working meetings in Berlin, which total 135 in number. All the papers are reproduced from the manuscripts prepared for the Final Report by the authors themselves, and as a rule are longer than the papers actually presented at the Congress, which had to be severely limited on account of the short time available. The great scope of these manuscripts necessitated, however, certain further curtailments before they could be printed; these were made with the agreement of the authors concerned; and the present opportunity is taken to thank them for their willingness in this respect. The authors are, of course, solely responsible for the contents of their respective papers.

The conclusions as printed in this Final Report are in accordance with the final draft, taking account of the communications made to the final meeting in Berlin, which have been considered by the Permanent Committee at its meeting of June 26th and 27th, 1937, in Paris, and have been edited by the technical advisers. Unfortunately it has not been possible, however, to accede to all the wishes brought to the notice of the General Secretariat in regard to these conclusions.

At the Congress 29 "free papers", as they were called, were presented, these being papers relating to questions not treated at the working meetings. The German Organising Committee decided that it was impossible, on account of the cost, to undertake the printing of these free papers as had originally been intended. Some of these papers were concerned with information on works carried out, and are suitable for treatment in the periodical literature. A series of

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papers will appear in Volume V of the Publications of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, to be published in the spring of 1938.

The brief report contained in Section F gives an account of the proceedings at the Congress itself; but on the grounds of economy the list of those taking in the Congress, containing approximately 1000 names, from 40 countries, has been omitted.

The General Secretaries responsible for organising the scientific side of the Berlin Congress wish to thank, firstly, the authors of papers and the contributors to the discussions for their valuable collaboration. They also express their thanks to Dr. K. Hofacker for his work on the editorial preparations for printing both the Preliminary and the Final Reports.

The present Final Report appears simultaneously in separate German, French and English editions. Sincere thanks are again expressed to the German Organising Committee for financing the Congress publications as well as the translation of the French and English papers for the German edition. The translations for the English volume have been carried out in praiseworthy fashion by Dr. J. E. Holmstrom, Ph. D., Assoc. M. Inst. C. E., of London, and thanks are likewise due to the publishers, Messrs. Wilhelm Ernst & Sohn, Berlin, for the attractive presentation of the reports, and to the university printers, Dr. C. Wolf & Sohn, Munich, for their courteous handling of the questions that arose in connection with the difficult printing work.

Zurich, December 1937.

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