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Theme VIII.

Soil research. (Soil mechanics.)

- 1) Since the Paris Congress of 1932 research on foundations has made great progress. In addition to an extensive literature in the periodical technical press a number of independent papers dealing with the subject have appeared, offering guidance and information for practical engineers. The methods which have now become established allow, in most cases, the magnitude of the settlement of structures to be estimated in advance. The application of foundation research to practice has recently undergone rapid development. The Congress recommends that the study of foundations should be included in the syllabuses of the technical colleges.
- 2) The calculation of the maximum load which a foundation surface can carry while remaining in equilibrium is the fundamental question of soil mechanics. The concept of cohesion has been clarified so that the formula for the limiting equilibrium resistance of a foundation slab may be extended to any soil possessing this property. The problem of the carrying capacity of a foundation slab limited on all sides, under the critical condition of equilibrium, has not yet been completely solved.
- 3) *The distribution of pressure over the ground* may be studied by analogy with the conditions of radiating stresses. Boussinesq's theory with its later extensions has been found very valuable, since when combined with examinations of undisturbed samples of soil it enables the amount of settlement to be predicted. The theory of the compression of layers of clay has been greatly developed quite recently, and can now be applied in practice.
- 4) *The dynamic investigation of the ground* has been found very valuable in practice. The development of geophysical investigations of the ground give promise of methods which will be important in practice.