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Final Remark

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Closing, the vice-chairman of the seminar, Professor Dr. H.J. Cowan, Australia, expressed his appreciation that IABSE has taken up the field of building physics. He pointed out that optimum solutions for all requirements of building physics would be difficult to achieve because, for instance, structural measures for good thermal insulation would be disadvantageous to sound insulation. Therefore, it should be considered carefully from time to time which of the requirements should be given preference.

The reports presented show that building physics is going to elaborate improved bases for the interaction of the different influences. As regards the measuring instruments developed for this purpose, electronic control and recording have become very helpful. The reports also show that it is possible to improve the theoretical assessments for complex effects in a way that good accordance with reality is achieved.

On occasion of this seminar, the participants of the Congress have had the opportunity to get informed about research work for such improved bases in other countries.

However, what IABSE needs in future in the field of building physics is this: On the one hand, discussions about reasonable quantitative requirements dependent on climatic conditions and on how the structures are utilized; on the other hand, discussions about constructive solutions to meet the requirements, inclusive of the development of appropriate building materials or building components. Finally, economic effects of measures taken in respect of building physics on building expenses and operation cost should be dealt with.

There is a wide field of new developments which requires further work in order to eliminate mistakes of the past when it was above all important to keep the building expenses down. Today emphasis should be put on the point of saving energy and of contributing to the comfort of man. These new aims can only be achieved if we are ready to apply new methods in the construction of structures in many respects.