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III

Some remarks concerning the introduction of Mr. G.R. Mitchell on "loading on buildings"

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- 1) Exceptional loads occur in many cases only during a very short time (a few hours). Examples are moving of furniture, people gathering for a reception, fire, repair activities. It seems very improbable that these loads will be found in an inspection in a certain number of office blocks or something like that. This means, that the imagination of the man who does the research (or of the designer) must be directed towards visualising exceptional circumstances. Much can be learned from case studies where something has gone wrong.
- 2) It seems a good idea to control circumstances in some way. This would mean however, that we as structural engineers have the task to give good information (understandable for people without technical knowledge) to the users of a building. For a washing machine this is quite conventional, for a building not!
- 3) Partitions form a considerable part of dead weight loads. We ought not to introduce these as "uniform" loads without taking account of their structural action.
- 4) Point loads are very important for the right dimensionering of details of a structure (e.g. holes in floors). An "equivalent" uniform load on a small floor area is a point load.