

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

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**ECONOMIC AND
MANUFACTURING ASPECTS OF
THE BUILDING BRICK INDUSTRIES**

BY

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AND

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BRICK MAKING INQUIRY COMMITTEE

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PREFACE

ONE of the major functions of the Building Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is to provide a scientific service to the Building Industry. Part of its programme of work is concerned with research on materials, including heavy clay products. From time to time certain special problems in relation to these products have been referred to the Station, and specific investigations have been undertaken, for example, into the durability of terra cotta, the weathering of clay wares, efflorescence, the strength of brickwork, etc. But it has been realised that to deal effectively with such important and widely-used building materials as heavy clay products, it is necessary, as and when occasion permits, to carry out a comprehensive scheme of work. Such a scheme must cover matters which appeal directly to the industry, and on which scientific research in co-operation with the industry is likely to be fruitful. A scheme of these dimensions cannot be embarked upon lightly.

Impressed with these considerations, the Department decided that a survey should be made of the brick-making industries. This survey, it was contemplated, should comprise the study of all the available literature and statistics, and a first-hand inspection of typical manufactories, both at home and abroad. Attention should also be paid to research and educational institutions. In this way it was hoped to secure the necessary background to enable the formulation of a rational programme of research work into bricks and brickmaking.

A small Committee, the membership of which is given on p. ii, was set up to advise on the conduct of the survey. The detailed investigation itself was entrusted to Mr. A. Zaiman, B.A., F.S.S. and Mr. W. A. MacIntyre, B.Sc., A.R.C.Sc. The collection of data proceeded during 1930, and on its completion early in 1931, it was planned to publish a report in six parts, viz. : I. Economic

Aspects ; II. Processes of Manufacture ; III. Outstanding Technical Problems ; IV. Research and Technical Education ; V. Properties of Bricks and Brickwork ; VI. Programme of Research. Unfortunately, the preparation of the Report was held up by the untimely death, in May, 1931, of Mr. MacIntyre. It was then decided to issue parts I and II, which were nearly ready, as a separate publication. The actual issue of this publication has been further delayed by the decision to await the Final Report of the Census of Production of 1924 and the Preliminary Report for 1930 (both published in 1932). The statistics quoted in this Report refer mainly to 1930. In view of the catastrophic industrial conditions of 1931 and 1932, it has not been thought worth while to bring the figures up to date, as the features of industry in these years can hardly be regarded as representative.

Acknowledgments are due to the many firms who granted facilities for visits to their works, to the representatives of trade associations who freely gave information, to the members of Government Departments and Consular Officers who rendered assistance, and to Mr. A. E. Brown, B.Sc., who was kind enough to check the proofs and make valuable suggestions.

WILLIAM CECIL DAMPIER,
Chairman, Brick-Making Inquiry Committee.

BUILDING RESEARCH STATION,
Garston, Nr. Watford

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