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BOOK REVIEW

Cement Chemistry, 2nd edition. H.F.W. Taylor, 1997. Thomas Telford Publishing, Thomas Telford House, 1 Heron Quay, London E14 4JD. 480 pages, photos, illustrations. £65.

In the last decade, publication of cement and concrete-related work expanded dramatically. As one would expect, such explosion led to publication of a variety of results—from excellent to very bad. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for a field engineer to separate the published facts from fables.

It is therefore most welcome that Thomas Telford Publishing issued the 2nd and completely revised edition of Prof. Taylor's book on the chemistry of cements. In its updated form, the book represents the best available work on the topic of cement chemistry—not a surprise. Prof. Taylor remains the best representative of this important field.

The book can be used as a first-class textbook by universities or as a guide for practitioners. Its use by practitioners is highly recommended, for knowledge of the intricacies of cement chemistry underwent meaningful changes in the recent years. Transfer of the existing knowledge into daily use by cement and concrete producers would greatly enhance the quality of the construction, in that it would help to eliminate construction problems related to the quality and missues of construction materials.

The book is structured into several chapters covering Portland cement and its major constituent phases; high-temperature chemistry; the chemistry of Portland cement manufacture; properties of Portland clinker and cement; hydration of calcium silicate phases; hydrated aluminate, ferrite and sulfate phases; hydration of Portland cement structure and properties of fresh and hardened Portland cement pastes; composite cements; calcium aluminate, expansive and other cements; admixtures and special uses of cements; and concrete chemistry. The presented data are supported by an excellent selection of references and an index.

The book is well written and contains the most important and updated information available today. As such, the book should be in the library of all individuals and organizations interested in cement production and cement use.

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