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SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1968 VOLUME TWELVE . NUMBER FIVE

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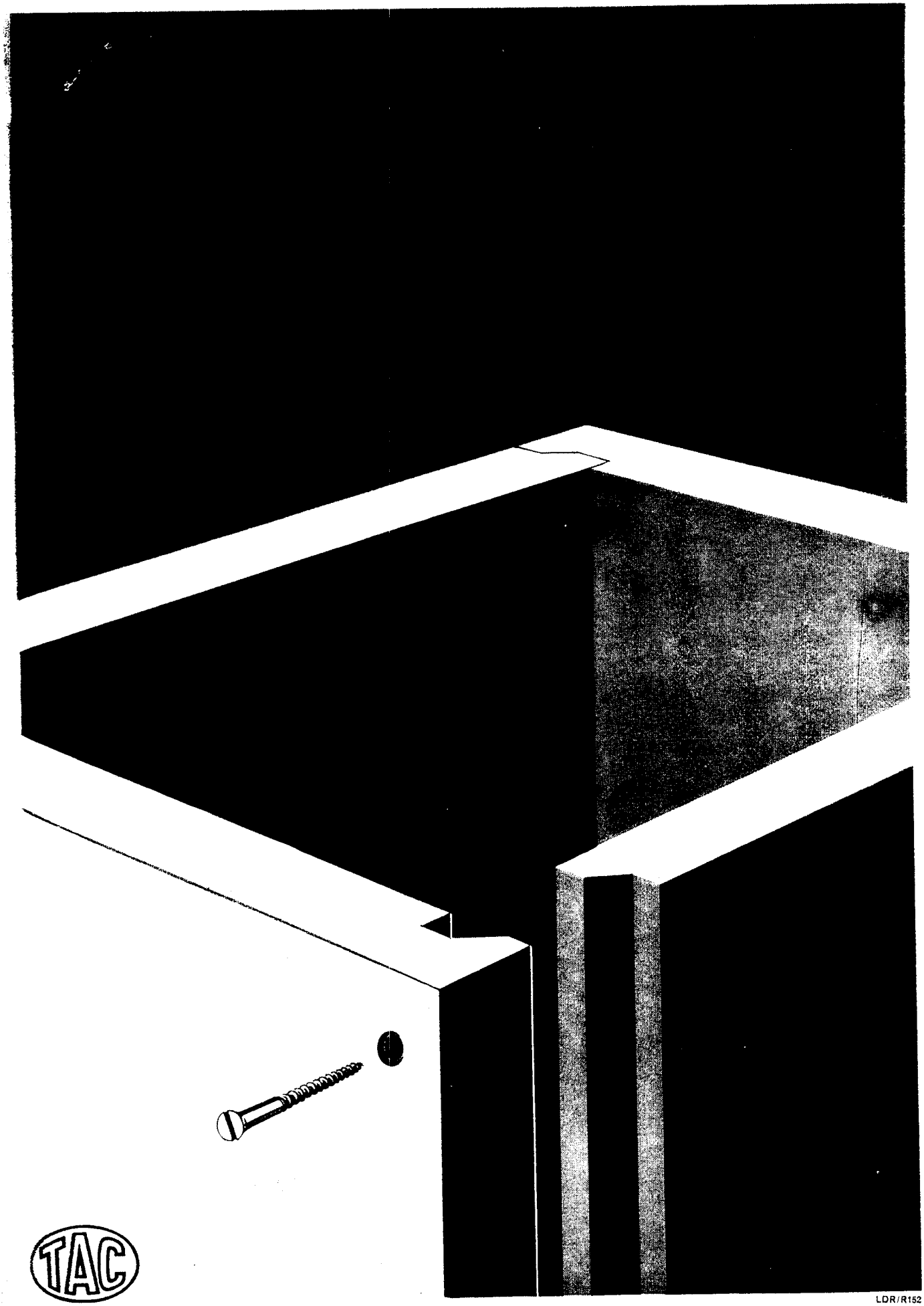
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SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDEXES. No annual index is published but technical articles of full page length or over, appearing in *Insulation* are indexed in *British Technology Index.*


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technical literature

Thermal Insulation

Thermal Insulation edited by S. D. Probert of University College, Swansea, and D. R. Hub of University College, Cardiff has recently been published by Elsevier. Among the contributors of articles to this book are Prof. T. A. Markus of Strathclyde and J. Lawrie of the Structural Insulation Association.

The book contains nine chapters, each written by a specialist in one or other of the fields of insulation. The variety of subjects covered can be seen by a cursory glance at the chapter headings: "Superinsulation in Cryogenic Engineering" "Thermal Insulation using Multiple Glazing", "Design of Walls for Intermittent Furnaces using High Temperature Insulation".

Thermal Insulation contains 131 pp, 62 illustrations and 14 tables. It is available price 65s from Elsevier Publishing Co. Ltd., 22 Rippleside Commercial Estate, Barking, Essex.

Publications index

The CIRIA Index of Technical Publications, an authoritative guide to official and semi-official publications produced for the construction industry is designed to provide quick reference to current technical literature, excluding periodicals, for architects, builders, civil engineers and surveyors, for whom—surprisingly—no such guide previously existed.

In its first edition, the CIRIA Index covers 1,550 publications listed by subject alphabetically. Publications on highway and traffic engineering have not been included, but will be incorporated in later enlarged editions, which will also cover industrial and commercial sources.

This publication accords with CIRIA's policy of improving the flow and effectiveness of construction information. Copies are available at 10s each (5s to CIRIA members) from the Construction Industry Research and Information Association, 6, Storey's Gate, London S.W.1.

Cellular plastics

A NEW DIGEST from the Building Research Station is entitled Cellular plastics for Building:1, digest 93. This digest deals with expanded polystyrene and its suitability as a building material. It covers the properties of the material, its use in roof, floor and wall insulation and other functions such as its use in acoustic tiles and in plumbing. Digest 94 will cover other types of cellular plastics and will include a short section on their use in sandwich panels and laminates. These two digests supersede Digest 39 (second series), which has now been withdrawn. These digests are published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and cost 4d. each.

Overheating

A SURVEY WAS UNDERTAKEN in 1964 to determine the extent of summer overheating in naturally ventilated offices of modern construction, by the HVRA. The physical factors relating to thermal comfort were measured in a number of offices and the occupants' reactions assessed from established data on thermal sensations in warm environments. Evidence of overheating in east, south and west-facing rooms was found. Even with venetian blinds in use, there were frequent and prolonged periods of uncomfortable warmth in rooms where the glazing exceeded 40 per cent of the external wall area or the glass/floor area ratio exceeded 0.25. These spells were found to occur on over half the days in summer and they lasted, on average, more than three hours. The overheating was worse as the glass area increased. To alleviate such conditions, mechanical cooling seems essential. The survey was repeated in 1965 when the weather was cooler and less sunny. Two of the buildings were studied for a period of nine weeks.

It was found that the thermal conditions in the offices could not be fully explained in terms of the physical parameters of the rooms. The occupants' use of open windows and blinds were significant and this led to marked differences in environment between similar rooms. But when it is remembered that a 2 or 3 per cent improvement of output (or the prevention of a similar fall) will justify the provision of air conditioning, then we may conclude that in buildings fully exposed to sunshine, and with a high proportion (>40 per cent) of the external wall glazed, air conditioning is likely to be an essential service, not merely a luxury.

Copies of the reports 31 and 34, *A survey of the thermal environment in naturally ventilated offices in summer*, are available from HVRA, Old Bracknell Lane, Bracknell, Berks at 15/3d. and 10/6d.

Double glazing claims in perspective

A NEW CODE of practice controlling claims which double glazing manufacturers make about their products, has been issued to its members by the Insulation Glazing Association. The code shows precise insulation values of units with various airspaces and in different exposures, considers claims for fuel savings and increased comfort and gives examples of the sound insulation provided by various types of sealed or fixed windows. Claims about condensation reduction and the effect of double glazing in summer are also put in perspective.

The publication titled '*Claims which can reasonably be made for double glazing*' is available from Insulation Glazing Association, 6 Mount Row, London, W.1.

Asbestos and health

Hygiene Standards for Chrysotile Asbestos Dust from the committee on Hygiene Standards of the British Occupational Hygiene Society has recently been published by Pergamon Press.

The committee recognizes that there is some small risk to health when working in an environment which contains airborne chrysotile dust and makes recommendations on minimising the risk.

The standards together with appendices are available in a 28 pp booklet from Pergamon Press, Headington Hall, Oxford.

Preventing condensation

BRS DIGEST 91 (Second Series) entitled *Prevention of Condensation*, published in March, shows how the risk of condensation may be assessed in the design of building details. To illustrate this it combines a graphical treatment with worked examples. The design data are presented in both imperial and metric forms.

This Digest should be read in conjunction with Digests 23, 117 and 132 (First Series). All BRS Digests are obtainable from H.M.S.O. price 4d. each.

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