Editorial

Our industrial world, industrialized to varying degrees, has many problems to face. One of the most complex and the most urgent is the disposal of waste and by-products. Obviously, this problem also involves civil engineering and the construction industry through many aspects and is therefore included in RILEM's long range technical programme as a top priority. Such a major problem on a worldwide scale calls for a solution through co-operation between states, nevertheless our duty is to consider it from the point of view of our sector of activity.

The first inventory in this field was undertaken by RILEM towards the end of the 1970's by means of a symposium by correspondence organized by the Building Research Establishment UK (see *Materials and Structures* **70** July 1979). Once the results had been analysed and following the RILEM practice of working through specific and short term initiatives, two Technical Committees were set up: TC 67-FAB Use of fly ash in building and TC 73-SBC Use of siliceous by-products in cement and concrete, a slightly wider field. The final report from TC 73-SBC was published in January 1988 (*Materials and Structures* **121**). TC 67-FAB had decided to produce a state-of-the-art report which will be published by Chapman and Hall.

Meanwhile, this group has now completed draft recommendations for two series of test methods. These are published for public inquiry in this issue: FAB-1 covers the properties of fly ash for use in cement, mortar and concrete, FAB-2 deals with the properties of fly ash used as additives in concrete. This issue includes yet another recommendation open to public enquiry and comment, a text produced by TC 80-TMS entitled 'Determination of the modulus of elasticity of prestressing strands', which brings the activity of this group to a successful conclusion.

Maurice Fickelson

RILEM provides an institutional framework, which is acknowledged worldwide, for bringing together foremost experts, with a view to harmonizing test methods and studying the characteristics of construction materials as well as the performances of building and civil engineering structures in laboratory and service conditions. The results of these studies are issued as technical recommendations for standards or state-of-the-art reports, with the object of getting research results put into practice and serving the materials and construction industry.