

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Noise Sub-Committee held in the Board Room, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Second Floor, Block 1, Visagie Street, Government Buildings, Pretoria, on Thursday, 27th November, 1947, at 11.20 a.m.

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Present:

Dr. Roux (Chairman).  
 Mr. Connell (Organising Secretary).  
 Prof. Meiring.  
 Dr. Meaker.  
 Dr. Lochner.  
 Mr. Scott.  
 Mr. Du Toit.

In Attendance:

Mr. J. Delpont (National Building Research Institute).

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

The action of the Organising Secretary in postponing the date of the meeting to 27th November, 1947, was ratified by the Committee, and the minutes were then confirmed.

2. Matters arising out of minutes.

It was noted that the Committee would serve the dual function of serving both the S.A. Bureau of Standards and the Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation.

Terms of Reference.

Agreed: to insert the following wording before the words "to examine".

"To serve as a joint sub-committee of the Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation and the South African Bureau of Standards to...."

3. Progress Report and Work Programme.

The above, listed as separate items on the agenda, were dealt with simultaneously.

The Publication "The Reduction of Noise in Buildings - Recommendations to Architects" issued by the Department for Scientific and Industrial Research (Bulletin No. 14) was brought to the notice of members by the Chairman, who described it as a very important document written chiefly with the idea of assisting architects in their design problems in so far as noise reduction is concerned. He suggested that it should

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serve as a basis for the Committee's report.

It was agreed that the Organising Secretary endeavours to obtain as many copies as possible in South Africa, and failing this he writes to London direct; as a last resort photostat copies may be made.

- (i) Professor Meiring tabled one page of a report he intended to prepare for the Committee, and asked members for criticism as to the usefulness of the form in which it was prepared. He wanted to know to what limits the report would have to be confined, and Mr. Connell stated that the general investigation on Minimum Standards of Accommodation concerned dwellings, including flats, and the report should embody current practice as well as an intelligent forecast as to what would happen in the next 40-50 years.

Professor Meiring then said that he proposed starting the report with a general approach, brought down to houses, giving examples of good and bad examples of construction in relation to noise reduction. The report would then further embody a study of the different parts of buildings such as doors, balconies, etc.

The example tabled was then discussed and the Committee felt that Professor Meiring's approach would be very valuable, the Chairman pointing out that it was not embodied in the Bulletin No. 14, previously discussed. The sketches, it was felt would be specially useful.

- (ii) Dr. Lochner stated that as soon as the Journal of the Acoustical Society of England was to hand he would furnish a report as to what degree of acoustical correction might be necessary and desirable.

The following question emerged from the discussions which followed, namely, whether there existed any definite proof that people living and working under noisy conditions tended to become fatigued and less efficient. In this connection Mr. Scott mentioned an experiment he had witnessed in the United States of America, and it was agreed that endeavours should be made to find out where this was done with a view to obtaining more information.

Agreed that Dr. Lochner report on existing information first and that the committee consider what recommendations should be made, at a later stage.

- (iii) The Chairman reported that he had managed to gather a considerable amount of information apart from the amount given in the bulletin mentioned earlier, but before abstracting it, asked the Committee for a ruling as regards the types of structures to be incorporated in the report.

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This was discussed at length and it was pointed out that the Building Industry was very conservative, and certain members felt it advisable to bring all types of structures to the notice of the people especially types where improvements could be effected by merely changing construction.

It was finally agreed: that the Chairman's report be limited to South African construction, pointing out any improvements in overseas practice, at the same time keeping a very close watch on considerations of cost. Mr. Connell would assist by giving a list of South African constructions.

- (iv) Dr. Meaker reported that he had not been able to gather any information for this meeting, but he could pass certain references on the physiological effects of noise to Dr. Lochner.
- (v) Mr. Connell said that he had done nothing for this Committee at the time, but planned to prepare a report on the same lines as that anticipated by Professor Meiring. Mr. Jennings suggested that he include a layout of plans for individual rooms, since he was already doing something to that effect for another Committee. Mr. Connell agreed to do this.

#### General.

##### (a) Final date for submission of Report.

In view of the fact that the Main Committee was required to have its report ready by June, 1948, it was pointed out that this committee's preliminary report should be complete for submission to the Main Committee not later than April, 1948. The work of the Committee might continue for + five years.

##### (b) General Set up of Work.

In reply to a question from Professor Meiring it was explained that each of the nine sub-committees was required to submit to the Main Committee a summary of scientific information, which would then present a report to the National Housing and Planning Commission. Each sub-committee would, it was expected, form a chapter of the report, which would, if useful, be published for general use.

##### (c) Next meeting: 4th February at 9.a.m.

The meeting terminated at 12.25 p.m.

Confirmed:

C H A I R M A N.

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