

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

CONFERENCE OF READERS OF THE JOURNAL "REFRACTORIES"

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A readers' conference was held at the Chasov-Yar Refractories Combine for the purpose of discussing the contents of the 1974 and 1975 volumes of the journal "Refractories." The conference was attended by about 60 engineers and technicians of the refractories and quarry divisions of the Combine.

In a report on the function of the journal it was stated that the editorial board and editors were guided in their work by the Directives of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the subsequent decrees of the Central Committee of the Party, the Appeal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party to party members and the Soviet people as a whole, and the decrees of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Council of Ministers of the USSR, All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League concerning the all-Union socialist competition of industrial, construction, and transport workers for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of the plan for the national economy for the years 1974 and 1975. The journal gives extensive coverage to the most important directions of technical progress in the refractories industry. Much space is devoted to refractories for large blast furnaces, continuous casting equipment, steel vacuuming plant, and gates for stopperless steel casting. A large proportion of articles deals with the development of new types of refractories. Considerable space is devoted to problems relating to the quality of the refractories production and starting materials, to the mechanization and automation of technological processes, and to improvements in the economic indices of the refractories industry. Regular reviews are presented of the progress and results of the socialist competition between the personnel of refractories establishments, and information is published about counter-plans and about advanced work methods.

Speeches containing reviews of articles published in the journal, remarks, and suggestions were made by A. D. Kulakova, senior engineer of the office of technical information; K. E. Kapran, chief of the central laboratory of the Combine; G. P. Érdeli, senior engineer of the quarry administration; L. G. Pisarenko, chief of the production section; and L. V. Pererva, deputy manager of the technical department.

The speakers noted that the articles published in the journal help refractories establishments to supply users with refractories which match the current developments in production processes and reduce refractories consumption per ton cast steel.

The journal gives good coverage to the results of the socialist competition between establishments, to problems of rationalization, and to advanced work methods in key jobs. The material contained in articles submitted from research institutes and refractories establishments and dealing with methods of improving the production technology for high-density refractories from Novoselitsy kaolin for the lining of blast furnaces, the organization of the production of refractories for stopperless steel casting and of hexagonal checker blocks for the regenerators of 5000-m³ blast furnaces, etc., has been used in the work of the Combine.

The notes about authors' certificates for inventions in the refractories industry and the book reviews are useful features in the journal.

It was noted, on the other hand, that the journal should print more articles on problems relating to production and production control and that the material in the journal is inadequately illustrated.

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Suggestions were put forward to the effect that the articles should be written in such a manner that they can be used more easily in practical work; more material should be published on research developments in the field of gas burners, on production mechanization and automation, on economics, and on labor protection; the journal should contain information about all-Union and Republican training schools, about the results achieved by teams in external production training, and regular information about new standards and technical specifications.

Chief engineer of the Combine V. A. Khreshchenyuk noted that numerous interesting developments in production mechanization and equipment modernization had taken place at the Combine but the specialists concerned write very little and only infrequently about them. The Conference passed a resolution to the effect that the Technical Council of the Combine should examine the question of articles written by staff members of the Combine being published in the journal "Refractories."

The participants of the conference approved the performance of the editors of the journal and suggested that they take note of the remarks made by the speakers and of the suggestions put forward at the conference.