CREEP OF ENGINEERING MATERIALS AND OF THE EARTH



The Royal Society of London

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CREEP OF ENGINEERING MATERIALS AND OF THE EARTH

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A ROYAL SOCIETY DISCUSSION ORGANIZED BY A. Kelly, F.R.S., Alan H. Cook, F.R.S., And G. W. Greenwood

HELD ON 24 AND 25 FEBRUARY 1977

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PREFACE

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This meeting was organized in order to bring together scientists concerned with the behaviour of engineering materials and those concerned with understanding geological and geophysical phenomena in terms of materials behaviour. The topic chosen for consideration was the slow deformation and fracture at low rates of strain of metals, and of rocks. The hope was to cover the laws of flow and the development of textures in rocks, minerals and metals, so that scientists in engineering, geology, geophysics and mineralogy might stimulate one another by learning about each other's methods, problems and progress.

The deduction of the creep laws for the mantle of the Earth was discussed by Professor J. Weertman and this was followed by a review by Professor F. A. Leckie of how constitutive equations governing the flow of metals can be set up and how the accumulation of creep damage during the life of a component may be used to predict when unsafe behaviour or rupture will occur. A detailed account was given by Professor A. Nicolas of how stress estimates may be made from the examination of dislocation or subgrain structures in mantle peridotites, and this was followed by a comprehensive review of our knowledge of the flow and fracture of materials under high temperatures and moderate hydrostatic pressures. Professor M. F. Ashby in his presentation showed how to produce deformation maps indicating the stress temperature and strain rate régimes, within which certain mechanisms of flow are likely to predominate. All save one of the papers presented at the meeting are reproduced here; the only one omitted is that on the flow of quartz and quartzite by hydrolytic weakening. A detailed account of creep in olivine was given by Professor C. Goetze. The recrystallization of metals during hot deformation and the recrystallization textures produced in metals and quartz were covered in detail by Dr C. M. Sellars and by Professor R. W. Cahn respectively. Dr J. H. Gittus gave an account of the high temperature deformation of two phase structures.

Lastly, fracture was covered in a discussion by Dr W. B. Beeré of the stresses and deformation at grain boundaries in metals and this was followed by an account of similar phenomena at geologic faults by Dr G. C. P. King. Finally, an account of fracture during creep was given by Professor G. W. Greenwood.

At the start of the meeting, apparent similarities between metallurgical and geological processes were emphasized and, in the summary given at the end of the meeting, the significant divergences in the scale, and how the similarities may arise, were commented upon.

The discussions were most stimulating and have suggested many interconnections between the disciplines of metallurgy, mechanical engineering, geology and geophysics.

> A. Kelly G. W. Greenwood A. H. Cook

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Parator	PAGE
A KREAGE	v
A. KELLY, F.K.S.	0
IWEEDIMAN	3
Creen laws for the mantle of the Earth	0
Discussion: S. WHITE and ALAN H. COOK. F.R.S.	9 95
F. A. LECKIE	20
The constitutive equations of continuum creep damage mechanics	97
Discussion: S. A. F. Murrell	47
A. NICOLAS	
Stress estimates from structural studies in some mantle peridotites	49
M. F. ASHBY AND R. A. VERRALL	
Micromechanisms of flow and fracture, and their relevance to the rheology of the	
upper mantle	59
Discussion: H. H. SCHLOESSIN, E. H. RUTTER, K. H. G. ASHBEE, S. H. WHITE,	
S. A. F. MURRELL and A. KELLY, F.R.S.	93
LORD TODD, P.R.S.	
Introductory remarks at the afternoon session, 24 February 1977	97
C. Goetze	
The mechanisms of creep in olivine	99
Discussion: J. P. POIRIER	119
J. H. GITTUS	
High-temperature deformation of two phase structures	121
Discussion: A. H. COOK, F.R.S., J. P. POIRIER, S. A. F. MURRELL and	
J. WEERTMAN	145
C. M. SELLARS	
Recrystalization of metals during not deformation	147
K. W. CAHN	450
W Brand	198
W. DEERE Stresses and deformation at grain boundaries	100
Discussion: E. H. RUTTER	105
G C P KING	100
Geological faults: fracture, creep and strain	107
G W GREENWOOD	101
Fracture during creep	913
Discussion: P. E. Evans, H. H. Schloessin and R. W. Cahn	215
GENERAL DISCUSSION	990
G. L. ENGLAND, A. M. NEVILLE and D. C. TOZER	449
Alan H. Cook, F.R.S.	
Concluding remarks	235
1	