ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that the author thanks his research supervisor Dr. G. Ramaiyan, for his valuable guidance, help and continuous encouragement rendered during the course of this research work.

The author is at a loss to sufficiently express his gratitude to Dr. R. Samuel, Additional Director of Technical Education who has suggested the topic. The unstinted help and guidance extended by him and Dr. M.A. Parameswaran, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, I.I.T. Madras, and Prof. A.M. Srinivasan, Director, College of Engineering, Anna University enabled the author to successfully complete this project. The author is very much indebted to them.

The author places on record with grateful thanks the help and guidance received from Dr. N. Krishnamurthy and Dr. L.S. Sakthivel. The assistance and help that were readily forthcoming from Dr. Bh. Nagabhushana Rao, Mr. P. Bagavathiperumal, Dr. M.C. Ramaswamy, Dr. K. Chandrasekaran, Mr. N. Sankaranarayanan and Mr. S. Natarajan are gratefully acknowledged.

All staff of the Engineering Design Division of College of Engineering were involved in one way or other for the successful completion of this project. The author expresses his appreciation and thanks
to every one of them and particularly to Mr. G. Krishnamurthy, Mr. D. Ranganathan, Mr. G. Chinnaraj and Mr. G. Raghavan. The constant encouragement and help the author received from Dr. E. Sundaramurthy and Mrs. Vasantha Sundaramurthy, Librarian, Anna University are gratefully acknowledged.

The author owes his thanks to the staff of Thermal Sciences Division and Central Workshop of the College of Engineering who at various stages of this work extended their unstinted cooperation.

The author sincerely thanks the authorities of the Anna University and the Directorate of Technical Education for the assistance and encouragement received from them.