STABILITY AND EQUILIBRIUM OF FLOATING BODIES

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Stability and equilibrium of floating bodies by Bernard C. Laws

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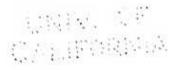
STABILITY AND EQUILIBRIUM OF FLOATING BODIES

BY

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PREFACE

THE present treatise is an attempt to set forth briefly the principles underlying the stability and equilibrium of bodies floating partially or wholly submerged in water, and in air.

Hitherto published matter bearing on stability has for the most part been confined to ship forms. Submarines and aerial machines claim a more recent development, and problems relating to the stability and equilibrium of these bodies may be said to be still under investigation. It is necessary now to approach the subject in a more liberal manner, treating the bodies as subject to active as well as passive forces, and to call into requisition the principles of fluid pressure—whether liquid or gaseous—in their action upon bodies at rest and in motion. A knowledge of the salient features of rigid dynamics and hydromechanics is required in order to enable the reader to take a comprehensive view of the subject under discussion.

In the introductory chapter the author has endeavoured to set out the essential points bearing upon this phase of the subject, and in Chapter I. discusses generally definitions, the nature and conditions of equilibrium, and the important formulæ, in order to enable the reader to pursue without interruption the chapters dealing with specific types of body, which follow.

Chapter II. treats of the stability of ships, and an endeavour has been made to render the matter comprehensive without touching upon the historical side of the subject; those readers desirous of pursuing to the end the history and development of stability as applied to ships are referred to Sir E. J. Reed's classic work.

The consideration of floating docks is included in Chapter IV., and, so far as the author is aware, has not been dealt with hitherto in any published work. Chapters III. and V., treating of submarines and air craft, indicate the manner in which the problem may be attacked without entering into what, to a large extent, could be only approximate data with reference to the forces acting on these bodies. It is hoped that the treatment of the subject may be found instructive to those interested in the study of submarine navigation and aerial flight.

Chapter VI. deals concisely with caissons.

The subject-matter for the most part has been derived from the author's notes culled over a period of intimate association with the scientific side of shipbuilding; the data and experimental results where given are reliable, and no effort has been spared to make the book trustworthy. Where necessary reference has been made to works and papers dealing with the subject.

The author is under obligation to Mr. Lyonel Clark, M.I.C.E., and to Mr. P. Hillhouse, B.Sc., for their patience and kindness in reading over the MS., and to Mr. A. E. Berriman, late Technical Editor of *Flight*, for reading the MS. dealing with air craft.

BERNARD C. LAWS.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, 1914.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Plane, and surface of flotation-Surface of buoyancy-Curves of buoyancy and flotation—Relation between surface of flotation and form of body—Locus of centre of buoyancy a closed surface—Surface of flotation a closed surface—Positions of a body for stable and unstable equilibrium occur alternately-Consideration of prismatic bodies-(Def.) Metacentre-Expression for "height of metacentre above centre of buoyancy"-Attwood's formula for "statical stability"-(Def.) "Metacentric height" or "initial stability"—Expression for amount of work done in inclining a body—Effect of contained fluid, free to move, on stability of body-Prometacentre-Locus of prometacentre the evolute of curve of buoyancy-Conditions for stability of body under constraint-Angular displacement of a body floating in a perfect fluid-Angular displacement of a body floating in an imperfect fluid-Oscillation of a floating body . pp. 12-45

CHAPTER II

SHIPS

Factors governing design—No absolute standard of stability—
Shifting metacentre—Consideration of various types of seagoing vessels—Stability determined by joint effect of "form"
of vessel and general distribution of weight—Vessels with top
hamper not necessarily unstable—Winged weights—Metacentric diagram—Consideration of rectangular prismatic

vessel—Stability curves—Range of stability—Effect of change of draught and beam on stability of rectangular shaped vessel-Freeboard, beam, depth and draught considered collectively-Calculations of stability-Heck's mechanical methods-Amsler's integrator-Crank, tender and steady ships-Stiff ships-Negative GM-Inclining experiment-Stability curves of typical sea-going vessels-Cross curves of stability-Coefficients of displacement, and moment of inertia of waterplane area-Morrish's rule for vertical position of centre of buoyancy-Statical stability curves for specific vessels-Analysis of effect of change in dimensions, freeboard, position of centre of gravity, etc., on curves of stability in specific cases-Longitudinal stability-Trim, and change of trim-Moving weights on board-Expression for "moment to change trim one inch "-Determination of change of draught with change of trim-Placing weights of small and large value on board-Effect on trim-Bonjean curves-Long's trim curves -Change of trim necessary to secure a specific draught forward or aft-Mobile cargoes, effect on safety of vessel-Effect of bilging a compartment—Case of box-shaped vessel—Vessels with deep tanks-Sub-division of vessels into watertight compartments-Bulkhead Committee's (1891) recommendations regarding spacing of watertight bulkheads-Stability of vessels partially waterborne-Stability of vessels at launching-Sir E. J. Reed's report on Daphne disaster-Effect of action of rudder and propeller on stability-Stability of vessels running at high speeds-Dynamical stability-Moseley's formula for dynamical stability-Relation between dynamical stability and statical stability curve-Stability of vessels subject to wind pressure-Stability of vessels amongst waves . pp. 46-160

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER II

Amsler's integrator—Action of instrument—Proof of principles— Tchebycheff's rules—Application of rules—Proof of rules pp. 161—167

CHAPTER III

SUBMARINES

CHAPTER IV

FLOATING DOCKS

Types of dock—Generally only necessary to consider small angles of heel—Metacentric method of stability generally sufficient—Critical period—Reason of broad lower walls—Air box—Paths of centre of buoyancy, and centre of gravity, in docking and undocking—Free water in dock—Action of offshore and outrigger docks—Action of booms—Static effect of immersing or emerging the dock—Action of pontoon in outrigger dock—Stability curves relating to outrigger dock—Loci of centre of buoyancy—Stability calculation—Strength of booms—Action of cams—Angular movement of docks, geometric considerations

CHAPTER V

AIR CRAFT

CHAPTER VI

CAISSONS