

**Book Reviews**

*Kemp, K.W.: Dice, Data and Decisions: Introductory statistics Ellis Horwood Limited Publisher, Chichester Halsted Press: a division of John Wiley & Sons 1984, has also appeared in the paper edition at £ 6.94 / \$ 12.00.*

There are numerous books on the market which serve as introductions to statistics and appeal to college students as well as to school teachers who wish to supplement their knowledge. Only few of those books are written by authors who have taught the subject long enough and found an individual way of presenting the subject so that an attractive exposition is supplied. The introduction under review shares these demands. A chapter on statistics and society motivates the approach (Arithmetic distortion, statistics and scientific explanation, confidence and rarity, practice and theory . . .), another chapter deals with the possibilities of mathematics (Kinds of uncertainty, right and wrong conclusions, random errors . . .). Then some definitions and important theorems (of course, without proofs), later distributions that arise in practice, distributions of sums. The last chapters treat the standard topics such as testing, population parameters from sampled data, and estimation;

The approach is "very personal", indeed, the style "easy and readable". Both intentions are meant to encourage the reader. And there is a good choice of examples which are given in order to illustrate the methods. We just refer to the titles of the corresponding sections: good and bad pennies (2.5), marbles from boxes (3.11), voting patterns (5.4), colonies of bacteria (5.5), red squirrels (5.7), wild flowers, insects, animals and stars (5.17), polling snags (8.4) and so forth. All of these references and many others are well phrased as is the title of the book itself.

An experienced teacher has laid down his view of teaching statistics at the college level. He has succeeded in "bridging the gap between books containing no theory and those of daunting mathematical complexity."

H. Heyer, Tübingen