the problems of selection and training in situations where "born" or traditional skills have quickly to be supplemented.

The similarities and differences between the three cases are then discussed and certain general points brought out within a fairly broad conceptual frame of reference, with emphasis on the development of adaptive mechanisms. The basic problems encountered are so deep that the authors themselves could not claim to have gone more than just below the surface in the three cases examined, but nevertheless they have produced a readable, discerning and helpful volume.

The book concludes with Appendices concerned with Research Methods (which has some rather hard things to say about quantitative techniques) and a review of the growing body of reading concerned with the application of social science to industry.   J.M.M.H.

Technological Applications of Statistics.
L. H. C. TIPPETT.
Williams & Norgate Ltd., 1952 ; 189 *pp.* 18*s.*

This book brings together a series of lectures given by the author at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1948 to a mixed audience of industrialists, students and industrial statisticians.

It is in two parts, the first of which is on the subject of routine quality control. The usefulness of techniques used in quality control, however, extends far beyond routine inspection ; operational research workers who may wish to apply these will find the basic methods described here in an elementary form.

The second part of the book deals with industrial applications of other statistical methods ; there are chapters on the Theory of Error, Analysis of Variance and Correlation and Regression analysis. These are considered from the practical rather than theoretical point of view and are explained with a liberal quota of examples ; the examples are taken mainly from the cotton industry and the steel industry, and many of them are of an operational rather than experimental nature. Operational research workers will find particular interest in the chapter on the practical application of the statistical theory of errors ; here there is a discussion on the choice of significance level and choice of hypothesis and the important problem of assumptions regarding normality, equal variability, randomness and the inclusiveness of the estimate of error ; all these are particularly pertinent to operational problems where it is so often difficult to be sure of the validity of one's data. The final chapter on planning an investigation also contains some useful thoughts on planning, especially economy in planning, as applicable to investigations as well as rigidly designed experiments.   R.T.E.

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20