

Book Reviews

In Part II the author shows "that there are no objections (to the approach) of a probabilistic nature". Copies of Parts I and II are available in the Society's library.

A. S. HARDING

Numerical Methods in Algol.

J. HAWGOOD.

McGraw-Hill, New York, 1965. x+178 pp. 38s.

The scientist or engineer who has to carry out calculations from time to time is wooed by simple-to-use high-level automatic languages; the appeal being to dash off a program in five minutes, develop it in one or two cycles of the monitor, and get the results back after lunch.

Like many other modern adverts, this tends to ignore many fundamental computing problems; rounding errors generated during series summation, inefficiencies of many "simple" algorithms and stability problems in iterative procedures to mention a few.

Dr. Hawgood has attempted to teach practical numerical methods via Algol in a way that should be reasonably clear to a user who is basically a non-mathematician, and he has been concerned to indicate those numerical pitfalls into which the "casual" user may fall.

The methods discussed are related in the main to curve fitting and the solution of various types of simultaneous and/or differential equations, and are well illustrated by almost fifty procedures.

Although some of these should be noted more for their mathematical efficiency rather than their computational efficiency, it is certainly true that many could be copied from the pages of the book verbatim and provide useful savers of highly paid programming time.

The book will certainly be useful to the design office or research department which has access to a computer and, in fact, to scientific computer users generally to whom mathematics is a subsidiary discipline.

J. LUDLEY

Management and the Social Sciences.

T. LUPTON.

Hutchinson, London, 1966. ix+102 pp. 18s.

This is one of the series of books on management topics which is being published by the Administrative Staff College, and it is an excellent introductory review of the field. In particular Professor Lupton has set out to dispel some of the scepticism which exists in the minds of some as to the practical value of social