Les Méthodes de Simulation.

J. AGARD, J. ALTABER, R. FORTET and A. KAUFMANN, Editors.

Dunod, Paris, 1968. vii+154 *pp.* Fr.35.00.

This book consists of a collection of eight papers presented by French practitioners at a colloquium held on 10 November 1966, in Paris, under the auspices of AFIRO (l'Association Française d'Informatique et de Recherche Opérationnelle). This collection forms No. 7 of a selection of monographs on Operational Research, edited by G. Morlat.

It is unfortunate that the title suggests to the reader that the book is a coherent co-ordinated textbook on simulation and the product of one practitioner in the field. The book is in fact a collection of papers and this makes it difficult, in a short review, to summarize the contributions of eight individual authors. This difficulty is possibly best overcome by the following summary:

(i) In some 20 pages, J. Agard surveys the field of simulation, summarizes techniques and discusses certain pitfalls and limitations.

(ii) In a brief paper J. Stengel discusses, in broad terms, the mathematical models used in simulation.

(iii) In 30 pages, P. le Gall discusses in much mathematical detail a specific application of simulation to telephone networks.

(iv) A paper by J. L. Altaber gives a mathematical discussion on the presentation of random magnitudes in simulations.

(v) M. Précigout describes the General Purpose Simulation System (GPSS).

(vi) Gilles Thomas attempts to transform a traditional PERT problem into a simulation.

(vii) A. Kaufman's paper provides a formal, but interesting, application of graph theory to a simulation problem without dependence on any particular simulation language.

(viii) R. Fortet gives a general philosophical discussion on the applicability of simulation techniques to resolve management problems.

The rather high price for such a small book may deter personal ownership but the book merits a place on the operational research shelves of a company or establishment library.

W. E. SILVER

Production–Inventory Systems: Planning and Control.

ELWOOD S. BUFFA.

Richard D. Irwin, Homeward, Illinois, 1968. 457 *pp.* 75*s.*

Professor Buffa's book covers a wide range of problems connected with production–inventory systems. The techniques developed for solving these