

Book Selection

introductory review text and for the experienced as a good reference work; it could prove nearly as valuable to computer men concerned with project control. Project engineers and managers will find it very helpful on the more theoretical aspects; its practical value to them is limited by the caveats mentioned above.

J. C. HIGGINS

Méthodes à Chemin Critique.

Dunod, Paris, 1969. xxv + 598 pp. 138F.

This book gives the proceedings of the first INTERNET conference which was held in Vienna in 1967. The languages of the Conference were French, English and German, and the whole book consists of 69 papers, ranging in length from 1 to 20 pages.

The problem facing the organizers of any conference is to be selective enough to ensure that the papers presented are of adequate quality but generous enough to ensure an adequate coverage of the subject. The Committee organizing the first conference on a given subject must find its work even more difficult since, in rejecting papers, there is the risk of offending contributors on whose attendance and recommendation depend the success of future conferences on the subject. All the same, some of the papers are so short as to constitute nothing more than a note on a particular subject rather than a conference paper.

The quality of the papers is as varied as their length, and there are a few irritating minor misprints. However, this book is essential for any O.R. department library since the range of topics covered makes it a useful source of reference on network methods. The utility of the book is increased by an ingenious classification matrix which precedes the contents pages. This gives information about each paper under a number of headings; the two main dimensions are subjects and backgrounds and each is further split into sub-sections. For example, the researcher looking for a paper on "Computer Aspects: Characteristics and Economic Features of Various Programmes for Manufacturing, Repairs and Maintenance Work" would look under A5 in the first dimension and B3 in the second; he would find that there are three short papers in the book, one in French and two in English. This feature could well be reproduced in other publications of conference proceedings.

A. P. AMIRY

Modern Research for Administrative Decisions.

LOUIS HOUGH.

Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, 1970. xix + 609 pp. \$12.95.

Against the current plethora of management science textbooks of indifferent quality, one began to read this book with the sense of irritation at the appearance of "yet another"; especially as the title appears to be carefully chosen to