

Society (my italics)? The book is nicely produced, with a useful summary, but would have benefited from a more extensive bibliography. We are promised another volume, to deal with the link with the control process. Probably I am too late, but if not may I propose that the topics treated should contain suggestions for further reading, including where available the relevant state of the art reviews.

TONY FLOWERDEW

**Operations Research for Management Decisions.**

DONALD R. PLANE and GARY A. KOCHENBERGER.

*Richard D. Irwin, Illinois, 1972. 320 pp. \$13.95.*

This book enters an area of literature already well endowed with attempts. It is "intended to be an introduction to Operational Research, useful as a text for a one semester or two-quarter course at the senior or MBA level". To this end the material that appears is well written and easy to read with the refreshing touch of very few errors (which is as it should be considering it is a revised edition!). The preface states that it has "no prerequisites in Mathematics other than algebra and a willingness to express and manipulate symbolic and numerical relationships". This willingness will certainly be extended when they reach such topics as a Hessian matrix, generalized posynomials and piece-wise linear approximations in the final Appendix. But, on the whole, the mathematics required is kept within reasonable bounds.

It was nice to see a number of computer programs available for solving problems and thus not expecting the students to manually flog through a large number of examples. The method of solving the transportation technique is not one that could be recommended to students and perhaps confuses more than it helps.

Unfortunately, the balance of the contents of the book is its main bad feature. About half of the total number of pages in the book are taken up with mathematical programming, the other half contains methodology, decision theory (a welcome chapter), fundamentals of differential calculus for optimization, analysis of waiting lines, simulation and optimization of functions of more than one variable. The suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter could have been profitably increased.

As far as its sales will go in the U.K. I feel that the price will be the factor that will give it a considerable disadvantage. There are other books (though perhaps not written quite as well) that will be bought since they are considerably cheaper.

JOHN S. WILKES

**The Organisation of Logistic Support Systems.**

R. BUREAU (Editor).

*The English Universities Press, 1972. 600 pp. £13 (out of print).*

I expect too much and I deserve my disappointments. *The Organisation of Logistic Support Systems* was such a disappointment and for exactly this reason.