

**Managing the Manufacture of Complex Products:— Co-ordinating Multi-Component Assembly**

C. C. NEW

*Business Books (Alden Press), London, 1977. 379 pp. £12.00*

Colin New deserves much praise for the lucid and comprehensive treatment of this topic which is relevant to the needs of a wide spectrum of manufacturing industries. I am convinced that both practitioners and students will find the material presented in the book a useful source of applicable concepts, which is the distinguishing feature of this text in contrast to many others in the field of operations management. It is worth noting that the use of the term "complex" in the title is used only in the sense that a finished product is an assembly of many components: a common situation which invariably engenders logistical and managerial complexity. The fifteen chapters present all the relevant technical considerations and include many concepts of recent origin (e.g.: Material Requirements Planning, Production Flow Analysis, Group Technology and Reliability). The coverage of behavioural aspects, Capital Investment Appraisal, Manufacturing Policy and Performance Assessment in separate chapters provides a comprehensive treatment which one hopes will prove to be exemplary for future authors in this field. The O.R. practitioner involved in the design of manufacturing control systems could regard this text as a useful reference for many of the practical aspects of this functional area. Whilst the author deserves every credit for the content, the publisher has to be strongly criticized for having been singularly lacking in professional presentation—the paper used resembles a blotting pad, many diagrams have not been type-set and are faint and, for the price, does not compare in publishing quality with professional text-books from other publishers. Perhaps Colin New should consider a better publisher for the next printing, which the content of this text certainly deserves.

UNNY MENON

SCHAUM'S OUTLINE SERIES IN BUSINESS

**Theory and Problems of Business Statistics**

LEONARD J. KAZMIER

*McGraw-Hill, New York, 1976. 375 pp. £3.70*

**Theory and Problems of Quantitative Methods in Management**

JOHN E. ULLMAN

*McGraw-Hill, New York, 1976. 357 pp. £4.45*

It is possible that many readers will be familiar, from their undergraduate days, with Schaum's Outline Series. These two texts are recent additions to this established and extensive collection (now over 100 titles) in which the basic theory of a subject is presented, together with several hundred solved problems, at a reasonable price.

An earlier (1961) volume in this series was Spiegel's *Statistics. Business Statistics* contains much of the same material, as one might expect, but also includes three chapters on Bayesian decision analysis and one, brief, chapter on analysis of variance. Generally, the 683 solved problems are concerned with applications in business and economics. An interesting feature is the discussion of output from the SPSS package in the chapter on "Multiple Regression and Correlation Analysis", although, unfortunately, in this case the data used is "hypothetical".

*Quantitative Methods in Management* also covers many of the topics in *Business Statistics*. Simple regression and correlation, for instance, are dealt with in the "Forecasting" chapter and much of the basic theory of probability and statistical distributions, estimation and hypothesis testing and analysis of variance is also included. The emphasis