

the construction of a rational fraction that is to be as large as possible over certain intervals and as small as possible over certain others. These papers are all in French.

The printing is not of the best, and in at least two places lines of type are missing.

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29[Z].—DANIEL D. McCracken, *A Guide to IBM 1401 Programming*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York & London, 1962, viii + 199 p., 28 cm. Price \$5.75.

This book on programming is addressed to the beginner in the field. The style is clear; the book is easily readable. The concepts treated are developed in an effective, pedagogical manner. An individual, desirous of learning how to program for the 1401, would do well to read this book before working with the IBM manual, which, like most manufacturers' manuals, is more a reference document than a learner's text. Though there is much to learn after Dr. McCracken's book is mastered, the reader is, by this time, off to a good start.

Dr. McCracken progresses from first principles about punched cards through the processes required to deal with some standard business data-handling problems. The use of cards, tapes, and disk storage is exemplified. Adequate examples are provided, in simplified form, but with the essential elements highlighted.

A useful feature is contained in the exercises at the end of most chapters. For selected exercises, solutions are provided in an appendix.

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30[Z].—RHEINISCH-WESTFÄLISCHES INSTITUT FÜR INSTRUMENTELLE MATHEMATIK, *International Series of Numerical Mathematics*, Vol. 3, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, Switzerland, 1961, 198 p., 24.5 cm. Price sFr. 20.00.

This book consists of ten papers presented at the Colloquium on Combinational and Sequential Switching Circuits, held at Bonn in October 1960. The colloquium was organized by the Rheinisch-Westfälische Institut für Instrumentelle Mathematik together with the Institut für Angewandte Mathematik der Universität Bonn. Their goal was to acquaint more German scientists with the basic ideas of switching theory and to help establish contacts among the various German researchers in the field, with the hope of stimulating more German work in this area. Thus, about half the papers are primarily tutorial and cover work done principally by Americans. The remaining papers cover original work by the authors. According to the forward, all the material is, or will be, available in more expanded form in other publications. The book, though, gives a fairly complete survey of the field and should help to further the goal of the colloquium. The brevity of some of the articles, however, plus a fair number of printing errors, may limit its usefulness to those with no prior knowledge of the field.

The titles, translated into English, and descriptive comments follow.

1. H. Rohleder, "On the synthesis of series-parallel switching circuits from