Who could ask for more?

The appendices will probably prove to be of great use to particular students. The first describes the Dartmouth /GE system while the second describes the UWBIC (University of Washington) system. The rest of the book lists some useful programs written in BASIC.

All in all this is a fine book carefully thought out and prepared and deserves a good measure of success.

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39[12].—KEITH NICOL, *Elementary Programming and ALGOL*, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1965, viii + 147 pp., 24 cm. Price $6.50.

This hard cover book by Keith Nicol of the Edinburgh School of Computer Services is an honest attempt to present the fundamental principles of computers. These basic concepts are incorporated in the first four chapters but are written in a needlessly detailed fashion. To the uninitiated this could be most discouraging, and even for the initiated it makes for difficult reading.

The next three chapters deal with various hints on programming (a questionable practice since the reader still doesn't know what a program is all about), computer hardware and applications of computers. These chapters could have been omitted in large part since they do not add very much to the understanding of programming per se.

It is not until we arrive at Chapter 8 that we encounter the introduction to ALGOL programming itself which, according to the cover, is the principle purpose of the book—'a teach-yourself-programming book which will have a general appeal.'

The introduction to Algol is, indeed, clear and well planned but it lacks a sufficiently developed sequence of problems to satisfy most students. For this reason the book is not suitable for classroom use but rather for individual reading of a somewhat superficial nature.

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40[12].—JOHN H. FASAL, *Nomography*, Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., New York, 1968, xviii + 382 pp., 26 cm. Price $14.50.

With the enormous expansion in the use of large-scale digital computers, the impression is generally held that there is less need for nomography. A nomogram, however, is not really a computing device. Rather, it is a method of presenting the voluminous results of computing with two or more independent variables in a more useful and compact form. Therefore, the increase in the volume of available data reinforces the need for nomography.