28[Z].—MARTIN GARDNER, *Logic Machines and Diagrams*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1958, ix + 157 p., 23 cm. Price $5.00.

Only on rare occasions does one come across a book written on a technical subject which is entertaining as well as informative. It is also unusual to find a book on the mechanistic aspects of formal logic which does not begin with either Venn diagrams or a description of Boolean algebra. The author has presented an historical survey of the subject in a somewhat narrative fashion, beginning with an almost complete biography of Ramon Lull and ending with speculations on the future of logic machines. The "References" after each chapter are considerably more than just references, and make as interesting reading as the text. The book is by no means devoid of the author's opinions and no attempt has been made at concealment. In fact, it is amusing to note that, even though some of the artifacts and methods described in the book are treated somewhat modestly by the author, he cannot resist the temptation to devote a chapter to a method which he, himself, has devised. This, I am sure, is understandable to any person who has worked in the field.

Persons interested in the field of logic, either as a subdivision of philosophy or as an aid to digital computer design, will find the book well worth its reading time. My only complaint is that he has not included the work done in the area of computer design, which could be interpreted as legitimate subject matter under this title.

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