

variable in calibre. There are, however, a few more deeply interesting articles such as one by P. Broise on dealing with tree structures in ALGOL.

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60[Z].—F. P. BROOKS, JR. & K. E. IVERSON, *Automatic Data Processing*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1963, xxv + 494 pp., 24 cm. Price \$10.75.

It is an unfortunate situation that books written about such dynamic subjects as electronic computers are obsolescent even as they are appearing in print. (The same thing can be said about the computers themselves.) How much more so is a book based on a course given from 1954 on. This book has many interesting features, but it is difficult to determine for whom it is intended. If it is for a programmer, then why the detailed discussion of manual and punched-card equipment? If it is for a systems analyst, then why all the details of coding and computer organization? There are also some noticeable omissions here, specifically a treatment of programming languages. On the other hand, the material covered is treated well. The programming notation introduced is difficult, but rewarding, once you master it. In summary, in using this book, one must pick and choose, bearing in mind the great strides made in the field.

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61[Z].—ERIC A. WEISS, *Programming the IBM 1620: The Hands-on Approach*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1965, viii + 299 pp., 24 cm. Price \$7.50.

As is stated in the preface, this book is intended to be an introduction to computers and programming for high school and beginning college students. The reader becomes acquainted with IBM 1620 machine-language commands by typing short programs directly into the computer, using read-write, data-transmission, and branch instructions. After graduation from the typewriter to punched cards, other machine commands, along with their SPS mnemonic codes, are covered. The last five chapters are devoted to an introduction to FORTRAN. More complicated concepts such as functions and subroutines, indirect addressing, and SPS floating-point arithmetic are omitted. Readable, requiring a minimal mathematical background, covering only the basic commands, but explaining these thoroughly, this book affords a good fundamental understanding of computers for the young student who preferably has access to a 1620 system.

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