

on "personal computing-1966" as this book already promises to do for computing and the basics of programming with respect to the older techniques.

One of the strong points of this volume is its pleasant pedagogical approach. When words alone do not suffice, a concrete example is used "to fix ideas." These examples illustrate the points being made quite adequately without exhausting the intelligent reader's patience or endurance. The authors manage quite nicely to increase the reader's cultural background through the use of anecdotes and historical sidelights that go well with the lesson. This is often characteristic of gifted authors, perhaps a little more frequently with British writers than with others. One wonders why this is so.

For style and lucidity of exposition and for its skill in pleasing, useful communication, as well as its content, this book is highly recommended.

The plea of G. H. Stearman [1] for the improvement of technical writing, with which this review strongly concurs, would be unnecessary if more of our colleagues wrote like the present authors.

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1. G. H. STEARMAN, "Is switching theory mathematics or engineering?," *IEEE Trans. on Electronic Computers*, v. EC-15, 1966, p. 124.

112[Z].—SEYMOUR V. POLLACK, *A Guide to Fortran IV*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1965, 260 pp., 24 cm. Price \$5.00.

The text is written in a clear and lucid manner and contains a glossary of terms (the lack of which sometimes occurs in the best of texts of this type). The problem exercises are interesting but rather limited in scope (many having evolved from medical applications). The illustrations and flow charts are clear and well coordinated with the text, and a complete index is included. However, there is no discussion of the use of disc storage appropriate to some machine configurations and the material is scanty on the use and advantages of binary tape, an important medium for handling large amounts of data conveniently. The most serious criticism of the book concerns the complete lack of material concerned with the basic numerical problems associated with computing hardware. For example, when discussing the arithmetic IF statement, no material is presented on the use of a tolerance when comparing two floating point numbers. This presentation of the Fortran IV language appears to be geared toward researchers in the life sciences.

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113[Z].—CHARLES PHILIP LECHT, *The Programmer's Fortran II and IV*, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1966, xx + 162 pp., 28 cm. Price \$7.95.

This concise, compact book is a catalogue of the main features of and contrasts between Fortran II and Fortran IV. Other forms of Fortran such as that for the CDC 3600, for instance, are not included. It is characterized by a simple and uniform