

This book claims to treat transform methods with applications to both engineering and operations research. I feel that the emphasis is more on engineering, so that this book would not be especially helpful to anyone interested in applications in operational research. However, it does cover the mathematical theory of transforms thoroughly for the reader concerned with the application of transform methods. The book is not cheap but is well written, pleasingly printed and contains a number of exercises for the student at the end of each chapter.

M. J. PHILLIPS

On Numbers and Games

J. H. CONWAY

Academic Press, London, 1976. 238 pp. £6.50.

This is a book which requires much more than a passing acquaintance with theoretical mathematics. It is No. 6 in the series of monographs published by the London Mathematical Society and therefore it is not surprising to find that it presents a highly theoretical treatment of its subject. This falls into two parts. The author first develops the theory of arithmetic based on a generalization of Dedekind cuts. In the second part of the book these ideas are extended to the theory of games.

Although this reviewer considers himself to be reasonably numerate he is not ashamed to admit that he did not read this work with ease. However, the author's written style differentiates this from many of the books published in this field. It is written in a whimsical style with some delightful "throw-away" lines, but this should not be allowed to hide the elegance of the mathematical thought contained in it.

Basically this is a book written by a pure mathematician for pure mathematicians. Its practical use to the O.R. worker is minimal but it does provide plenty of scope for mental gymnastics and opportunities for exercising the cerebral powers. The publishers suggest that this work may be of interest to "games and puzzle enthusiasts who are game to be puzzled". Some O.R. workers might consider this a rather neat definition of themselves and might find this work of use in keeping their minds in a fit state to tackle the practical problems which face them in their professional work!

P. CIARAN O'KANE

Statistics for Business (+ Solutions Manual)

B. L. NEWTON

S.R.A. Ltd, U.K., 1974. 553 pp. (+180 pp). £7.75 (+£1.75).

This is a book produced by a subsidiary of IBM, and it somehow mirrors my image of its parent—rather commonplace and unexciting technically, but very thorough and professional in its presentation.

In general, two colours are used to point tables, major headings and some facts, and there are plenty of worked examples illustrating the text. Appendices cover both the necessary sets of tables and answers to the exercises at the end of each chapter.

There is an ancillary booklet *Solutions Manual and Test Bank* which should prove a real boon to those who are forced to teach what they cannot understand themselves, or who are too lazy to think out their own problems... and if the students acquire this extra as well, neither teacher nor pupil need be embarrassed!

In all there are 12 chapters. The first is an introduction replete with the homilies that are *de rigueur* to all business books concerned with structuring and identifying problems, two chapters then on basic probability theory and distributions which are clear enough, and a further two on visual presentation and numerical description of data.

After this four chapters on statistical estimates, hypothesis testing, Chi Square and Analysis of variance, Regression and correlation analyses.