solid operational research as it is solid ergonomics, based on field observation and finding, e.g., why important equipment, even when provided, might not be used or kept in working order. Re-subtitled “A study of a system”, this account would rate as excellent operational research.

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C.D. LEWIS (Ed.)
Operations Management in Practice
Philip Allan, Oxford, 1981, x + 454 pages, £8.95

This is a text book intended primarily for students in operations management. The overlap with operational research is high as can be seen from the contents. The book has a series of chapters on different topics within the field, each illustrated by a second chapter with a case study on that particular aspect. The topics covered include forecasting, inventory control, production scheduling, materials requirements planning, and then areas slightly further away from traditional OR – quality control, costing, incentive schemes and product development.

As would be expected from such a wide coverage, each topic is dealt with at an elementary level. However, with one or two exceptions – incentive schemes and inventory control – the text is clear and easily understood. The case studies are mostly very useful in giving a full flavour of the application: particularly noteworthy are one on quality control for artificial legs and an incentive scheme with an electrical manufacturer. However, the case on facility decisions within Cadbury-Schweppes is so abbreviated as to be useless.

Overall, it seems well designed for the intended market and would make a useful read for people wondering whether to go into this area. It would also be useful for people in the Planning function.

One point that should be revised in a new edition is the stereotype example on household shopping, where it is assumed that only a wife can shop regardless of whether she works or not. Even management books should take account of changing social mores.

Keith CHESTERTON
Lever Bros. Ltd.
Kingston-on-Thames, United Kingdom

M. Dorothy MACPHERSON
Mathematics Applied to Business Problems
Business Publications, Plano, Texas, 1982, ix + 341 pages, £8.50 (paperback); European distributors: Feffer & Simons/TABS, 24 Red Lion Str, London WC1R 4PX, United Kingdom

Under the above mentioned title, the public might aspect a book on operations research. The content is, however, of such an elementary level – perhaps useful for undergraduate students in economics – that a review for EJOR seems pointless to me.

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Sarkis J. KHOURY and Torrence D. PARSONS
Mathematical Methods in Finance and Economics
North-Holland, New York, 1981, x + 295 pages, $51.00

This text gives the advanced undergraduate, or beginning graduate student the mathematical background for modern finance and economics. Mathematical proofs are omitted but heuristic arguments are given. The authors assert that they have had better experience in the teaching of this material by emphasizing the calculations and mechanics – or the “how to” approach. There are numerous numerical and formulation examples and the techniques are amply illustrated.

Chapter 1 begins with an overview of modern finance and economics. It is a motivational chapter. Chapter 2 on the mathematics of value begins with the notion of simple interest and goes through the capital asset pricing model (CAPM). With 100 pages, it is the longest chapter and covers the most material. Annuities, bond values, internal rate of