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**REVIEWS**


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**Methodology of Forecasting Complex Development Processes of the Scientific and Technological Revolution.** By Dr. Ota Sulc. (The Centre for the Study of Science, Technology and Development, CSIR, Raji Marg, New Delhi), 1977. Pp. 46. Price Not given.

The publication is based on a series of four lectures on prognostic delivered by the author at the Centre for the Study of Science, Technology and Development of the CSIR, New Delhi. The author has attempted to present a comprehensive picture, including the conceptual framework, methodology and practice of forecasting and the integration of all these with planning and decision-making processes. One of the distinctive features of approaching the subject of forecasting by Dr. Ota Sulc is that he has suggested a novel methodology of forecasting development of the processes of the scientific and technological revolution. The author has viewed the developmental processes as complex categories of life time which are characterised through different sets of indicators, concepts and trends.

"Cybernetic and simulation models can scarcely substitute for the qualitative analysis and elucidation of the dialectical relations between social, economic and technological developmental factors. It is only the non-quantitative phase of systems methodology which can accompany the social science methodology in understanding the intrinsic logic, dynamics and dichotomy of complex developmental processes" (p. 5).

The principle approaches to the problem have been critically examined and strong argument for the new approach to deal with this complex problem has been stressed by the author. The self explanatory set of figures may well be considered as a valuable contribution which helps the reader to understand the complex issues better.

The development complex has been defined as sets of accelerated trends and key events whose conditions of development and impacts are subject to multi-fold interactions. As a consequence of this, these sets manifest themselves in the form of integrated structures of social-economic-technological parameters (goals, trends, criteria etc.). The role of life style indicators changes in the character of work, living environment and communication, moral ideas, values, etc. as a data base for complex forecasting have been discussed. The principles of

construction of the complexes have also been highlighted. Finally, the complex of education as an example, have been discussed.

The publication has laid considerable stress on the conceptual aspect behind the forecasting techniques. It is an interesting reading and one could get a very clear picture of the methods and techniques followed for forecasting complex development processes, specially in a socialistic society.

This publication will be of special interest to the researchers in the field of Management of Science and Technology and the Technological Forecasting. It will also be a valuable reading for the science planners and others who are interested in the area of science, technology and society. The style of presentation by the author is straight-forward. The reading of the book will help the students of Management in understanding the complex issues, they are likely to deal with, in the processes of planning and determining strategies for sophisticated industrial and other organisations related to national development.

T. GANGULY.

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**Biological Tools and Instrumental Techniques (A Laboratory Manual).** By J. Sakharam Rao and P. S. Srinivasan. (The Macmillan Company of India Limited, 6 Patullo Road, Madras 600002), Pp. viii + 70. Price : Rs. 23-50.

The authors in the preface set out their task "It is the intention here to give detailed operational procedures in the manual in working with most of the biological tools and techniques". What they have done is to list out all the important instruments that one sees in a biological laboratory and have compiled the directions for use given by manufactures for their instruments. The list is certainly not complete. For, no information is presetned on Sonic grinder, hydraulic press, orbital shaker, lyophilizer, vaccum evaporator, etc.

The style is simple but in some places sloppy and expansive. Care should have been exercised in proof reading; I found 4 grammatical errors in the Preface alone! The overall printing and general get up of the book are good. Despite its very limited intellectual outlook, this laboratory manual will become popular with the post-graduate and research students,

A. MAHADEVAN.