Books Received

The following books have been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.

Problèmes de cristallographie. By P. DUCROS and J. LAJZÉROWICZ-BONNETEAU. Pp. xxii + 118. Paris: Dunod, 1967. Price 18 F.

This book contains sixteen problems and forty-three exercises of variable difficulty, intended for candidates for the certificate in physical crystallography in the course of their studies at French universities. The introductory part deals very briefly with notation and definitions, and may serve as a reminder to the student of matters that he has met elsewhere. (The section on space groups occupies one page and five lines, and by a curious error is headed *Groupes Ponctuels.*)

The exercises are mostly perfectly straightforward, and full solutions are given. The problems are somewhat longer and more difficult, and seem to be taken from examination papers. The book is well illustrated, and should prove useful to teachers of introductory courses in crystallography outside as well as inside France.

Stereology. Proceedings of the Second International Congress for Stereology, Chicago, April 8-13, 1967. Edited by HANS ELIAS. Pp. xx + 337. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1967. Price U.S. $ 10.

By implication, the *Preface* defines stereology as 'discussion of problems concerning the recognition of three-dimensional structure', which should include most of crystallography as a special case. The *Introduction* explicitly defines stereology as the 'three-dimensional interpretation of flat images or extrapolation from two- to three-dimensional space', including the study of metal surfaces, geological and biological sections, and heavenly objects. Most of the sixty-odd papers in the *Proceedings* deal with biological problems, and none are specifically crystallographic. (One, by a metallurgist with crystallographic leanings, deals with 'sectioned textures in the decorative arts'.)

Besides studies of specific structures, there are several papers of general interest, dealing with the mathematical methods of relating two-dimensional to three-dimensional distributions and similar problems, and papers dealing with instrumentation. The latter will be of particular interest to metallurgists and mineralogists. A group of six papers deals with reconstruction from serial sections; the superposition of transparent sheets representing successive sections of a three-dimensional electron-density synthesis is familiar to crystallographers, and one of the illustrations of a paper on neonatal biliary atresia bears an uncanny resemblance to such a map.

The book is reproduced photographically from typescripts provided by the authors, and is inevitably very uneven in appearance, but it is everywhere easily legible. The papers range in length from half a page to a dozen pages. A worker in almost any field of science will find much in it to interest him, but there will be few who care to read the entire book.

SNOBOL 3 primer. An introduction to the computer programming language. By ALLEN FORTE. Pp. [xii] + 107. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M.I.T. Press. Price U.S. $ 3·95.

SNOBOL 3 is very simple computer programming language, especially well suited for processing of non-numerical data and for pattern searching. The book is to some extent a 'programmed' text, with many questions; the answers are given at the end of the book. The complete technical description of SNOBOL 3 is given in the *Bell System Technical Journal,* July-August 1966.