Motivation at work

The Institute of Industrial Engineers of the US has issued an updated version of its 1984 Publications Catalogue.

The catalogue contains a current listing of all Institute books, software, periodicals, reference guides, independent study materials, career guidance materials, films and slide shows.

New publications listed include 'Motivating people at work', concentrating on successful motivational techniques that improve the quality of work life and increase productivity.

Mechanics

Intended for students taking the first year of an engineering degree or diploma course, the fourth edition of 'Mechanics and machines' has been published by Edward Arnold.

Edited by J Hannah FIProde and R C Stephens, the fourth edition, subtitled 'Elementary theory and example', has had its text revised throughout and outdated examples and problems have been replaced by a greater number of more recent ones.

These revisions have been particularly significant in the chapters on general dynamics and velocity and acceleration. Also, the inclusion of a new chapter on automatic control systems is designed to serve as an introduction to the student on this important topic.

'Mechanics of machines—fourth edition' costs £6.95 and is available from Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd, 41 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DQ (01-637 7161).

Automation

Described as an important new study that examines the technical, economic and social issues surrounding the spread of programmable automation in manufacturing, 'Computerised manufacturing automation: employment, education and the workplace' has been published by Mircoinfo.

The 485-page study looks at robots and other related computer-based technologies for design, production and management. The technologies of programmable automation, their uses and future capabilities are described in the report.

The areas covered, say the publishers, go beyond technology description to characterise the industries producing and using programmable automation.

The report is available, price £80.40 (inc p&p) from Mircoinfo, PO Box 3, Newman Lane, Alton, Hants GU34 2PG. Please quote order number PB84-196500 with order.

CAPM feature gave 'misleading impression'

Sir—I was disturbed by your feature on CAPM in the September issue. It gave the impression that the Institution had only just discovered CAPM, and was determined to catch up with a big splash. It put over CAPM as something new, not a topic which many have been working on for almost twenty years (albeit without the initials CAPM). Too much of the content was advertising material for a random selection of software packages. Many of the featured software packages were based on small computers, which certainly have their part to play, but only in a very limited part of the industrial spectrum. Many of these suppliers have only just started in the business and many will be in liquidation in a year or two.

Without properly balanced editorial material, such a feature can give a completely misleading impression and was, in my opinion, not worthy of a professional Institution such as ours.

Allan S Carrie (Member)
Senior Lecturer
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The one that got away!

Sir—In the process of preparing a paper, many facts are marshalled and some rejected, occasionally one gets away! I refer to my own paper on page 35 of September Production Engineer. The words 'the EOQ and' should have been deleted. I accept full responsibility and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The EOQ (Economic Order Quantity) theory was one which was prominent in text books in the 1950s and has often been the subject of correspondence in your column. I do not wish to reopen the correspondence. The principle of spreading setting up time over longer batches was the basis of larger so-called economic batch quantities, but with parts requiring multiple operations this led only to longer queue times. With the advent of flexible manufacturing methods and numerical control leading to the future environment of computer integrated manufacturing, current trends are in exactly the reverse direction, that is towards smaller and smaller batches. Ingersoll Engineers has never been a subscriber to the EOQ theory. Perhaps this three letter word should be consigned to oblivion along with those other four letter words which are not allowed to disgrace your columns.

D F H Rushon (Fellow)
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Past tense

Sir—In view of Brian P Smith's apparent ignorance of CAPM, concentrating engineering technology (see letters, October 1984), perhaps it is as well that he is a Past President.

S W Manning
Member