```
COMPUTER SYSTEM NO= 1234A
                                        HOSPITAL NUMBER=RAD 456789
                                                  BLOGGS,JEAN
DATE OF LAST VISIT=20/08/75
EXAMINING DR, LAST VISIT=FOSTER

    BLOOD PRESSURE
        DATE    TIME   SITTING STANDING   LYING  EXERCISE   ARM  HT THERAPY
     20/08/75  11:00  160/110  165/110                      RIGHT    YES

      PULSE=84,

      WEIGHT= 75,80KGS

    THERAPY STOPPED LAST VISIT
        PROPRANOLOL,REASON STOPPED=SYMPTOMS,DEPRESSION

    CURRENT THERAPY
                                          AM      MD      PM      EVE
        NITRAZEPAM                                                >,00 MG
           STARTED=06/11/74
        HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE             50,00           50,00        MG
           STARTED=19/04/75
        SLOW-K                           1,00            1,00        TABS
           STARTED=28/05/75
           CHANGED=20/08/75
        OXPRENOLOL                      40,00           40,00        MG
           STARTED=20/08/75

    PRESENT SYMPTOMS
        MODERATE,DYSPNOEA ON EXERTION

    INVESTIGATION RESULTS(NUMERICAL)
        28/05/75,HAEMOGLOBIN(G/100ML),    13,1
        28/05/75,MCHC(%),     31,9
        28/05/75,WHITE CELL COUNT(/CMM),  6200,0

    COMMENT
        DO ECG NEXT VISIT

    DATE OF NEXT VISIT=00/10/75
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Fig. 7 An example of a computer-printed case record from a follow-up visit

to a wide range of clinical conditions, particularly chronic ones for which extended follow-up is necessary. For example, a system for patients with diabetes mellitus would have many features in common with ours and would require a similar sized but not identical set of dictionary terms. The increasing power and sophistication of computing tools, both hardware and software, should make implementing such systems easier in the future but the practical problems of collecting and preparing the data remain substantial.

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Book review

Distribution sampling for computer simulation, by T. G. Lewis, 1975; 150 pages. (*Heath*, £8·50)

Occasionally a reviewer receives a book which he is unable to recommend to his readers. It gives the reviewer no pleasure to do so and no doubt matches the pain felt by the author who finds his work reviewed unfavourably. The material presented by Professor Lewis is not sufficiently substantial or of such lasting value to justify a book well-bound with hard covers, on good quality paper, at a price of £8·50. Many of the 150 pages are blank—nearly half of the last forty pages contained just a title or nothing. Even such publisher's decisions might be justified if the material was likely to be valuable for a substantial time as an authoritative treatment of a portion of the subject. Such is not the case: the developments in the generation of pseudo-random elements for computers have been many in recent years and the pace of publication has not slackened substantially. An account written in the clear and compact style of a journal such as *Computing Surveys* could have described the important material of this book in thirty or forty pages, bound in sufficiently permanent form to last until a revision was justified.

The book certainly contains useful material: while congruential generators have been well treated in survey articles and books, the Tausworthe 'feed-back shift register' sequences have a scattered literature and this book gathers the useful results together and illustrates the properties of these and congruential generators in one or more dimensions by means of clear diagrams. Many tests are listed but no serious consideration is given to the (admittedly very difficult) problem of the relation between various tests and the selection of which are appropriate to give the safeguards that are necessary in an application of a particular type. The transformation of random digits into uniform variates is treated in a section which contains a selection of the methods available and includes a chapter on conditional bit sampling which has been reprinted from an earlier book. Some 360 assembler subroutines are listed in the appendices.

E. S. PAGE (Newcastle)