

Correspondence

However, a new FACT Manual is due shortly and it will be of the same attractive standard as the other Honeywell Systems Manuals.

A pleasantly readable manual for a programming language is a normal adjunct to that language when it is first specified, and it is desirable that it should remain adequate as a description and programming guide once a compiler has been written and is in everyday operation. Whether it is reasonable to expect so much is questionable. Recent experience suggests that there are two stages in the life of a data-processing language at which its manual can properly exist in fair prose. Those are, on the one hand, before the implementation gets

properly under way, and on the other, once the compiler has been 95% checked out. The intervening period can be hard on any but the most nebulous description. The FACT Manual which is now about to be released marks FACT'S arrival as a working tool.

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Yours faithfully,
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Computers and School Timetables

The honorary editors note with pleasure the recent appointment of Professor C. C. Gotlieb, Director of the University of Toronto Computation Centre, to the post of Editor-in-Chief of *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*.

Considerable interest was shown in the paper "The Construction of Class-Teacher TimeTables" presented by Professor Gotlieb at the recent I.F.I.P. Congress in Munich. The regular discussion was followed by a special meeting at

which some 40 persons were present. It became evident that work on this subject is in progress at many institutions. A list of groups interested in timetable construction was drawn up and copies are available from the Assistant Secretary of The British Computer Society at the address shown on p. ii of cover. Professor Gotlieb has undertaken to circulate any short summaries of progress which are submitted to him, to the organizations listed.

Southampton Branch Conference

A two-day conference on *Computers in Local Government* will be held by the Southampton Branch of The British Computer Society on 2 and 3 April 1963. Further particulars will be published later.