

BOOK REVIEW

Transducers and Display Systems. By B. S. Sonde. Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. Ltd. New Delhi 1977. Pp. 154+xii. Price Rs. 48|-

The book under review is the fourth volume in the series of monographs on Solid State Electronic Instrumentation written by Dr. B. S. Sonde and published by the Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. As such, it is planned and executed largely in the same manner as the previous monographs. User reactions on the three previous monographs have contributed to an improvement in the present one.

After an introduction, there are separate chapters on transducers, display devices, display systems and recorders. The list of symbols and abbreviations used are furnished separately. References to papers, reports and books have been furnished in the end and they are arranged in alphabetical order. There is an index at the end of the book. The printing and get-up of the book is very satisfactory. The diagrams, etc., are neatly drawn and well reproduced. Captions to figures are self-explanatory and brief.

The chapter on transducers covers the two important types, viz., temperature transducers and pressure transducers. Display devices covered include storage type CRO. Numeric and alpha-numeric displays using CRT, LED and LCD and other display devices come up for adequate treatment. Analogue and digital recorders are adequately described and their limitations pointed out. The description is everywhere clear and systematic. It is quite adequate for an instrumentation engineer to design, fabricate and use an instrument.

A considerable amount of effort has gone into the collection of the right type of material, its synthesis for orderly presentation and, in particular, abstraction of data into a tabular form. In this connection, a special mention may be made of a table like Table 2.3 on 'A comparison of temperature transducers'. Such tables are extremely useful not only to students but to actual fabrication or design engineers also. Similarly, the problems at the end of the book should be both exciting and useful to students. Briefly put, it is a book written by a user who understands his job for the users and would-be users but with sufficient science and engineering needed for a good scientific approach to the problem.

Display systems should take into account human factors in engineering as, ultimately, the display is meant for man. Some literature is already there. But, it may not be quite adequate and quite free from controversy to enter a book of this type. Transducers for *some* electro-medical instruments pose their own problems and they are fast changing. This may explain their not coming up for treatment. It is hoped that these would be taken into account while writing for the next edition. However, these facts do not affect the value and quality of the book. The statements are made strictly as suggestions for the future.

The book can be strongly recommended to undergraduate and graduate science and engineering students and to all libraries of institutions concerned with teaching and/or research in physics, engineering and instrumentation.

S. V. C.