

photographs and other illustrations, it has exercises at the end of each chapter, some based on the Minitab computer program, and several data sets for the reader to analyse. Minitab output is also explained in the text. However,

access to Minitab is not essential for following the course. It seems excellent for its purpose, but may not find a market on this side of the Atlantic.

Susan Chinn

Methods and Applications of Linear Models: Regression and Analysis of Variance (1996)

Ronald R. Hocking

Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York

Price: £55.00

ISBN: 0-471-59282-X

In his preface the author states that one of the aims of this book is to present statistical methods in such a way that the user will more easily understand the applications of the methods and be able to assess whether the computer software available to him or her reflects the method. Whilst the book succeeds in achieving the conceptual simplicity, it still requires a degree of mathematical understanding and ability which is not characteristic of the orthodontic profession. It is unlikely that anyone wishing to use the techniques explained in this book would be happy to do so without the advice and support of a statistician.

The first four chapters, which form the introduction in basic theory, would provide a

useful introduction for use on linear models and in particular Chapter 4, 'Simultaneous inference in test and confidence intervals', is worthwhile reading for anyone considering a study analysing multiple variables on the same subjects. Whilst in places these chapters may appear mathematically intimidating, the formulae are given and developed as part of the rigorous mathematical treatment and can be ignored by the casual reader as the information they are likely to require is well and simply put in the text.

The remainder of the text is probably too mathematically complex for most readers of this Journal and this book's role is likely to be as a reference text for the statistician.

D. R. Stirrups