analysis, and finally, System analysis through fault trees.

It may be argued that the book is too 'voluminous', but there a few books published which are regarded as 'landmarks' or 'milestones' in any technique or subject Colloquially, they are known as 'the Bible' or fount of knowledge. Such a book for many years was F. E. Terman's *Radio Engineering*. We now have a new 'Bible'—K. B. Misra's *Reliability Analysis and Prediction: A Methodology Oriented Treatment*. The author is modest in claiming that this book, which is the outcome of his more than 25 years of teaching and researching in the area, is going to fill the gap which has been widely felt by practising engineers, but there is no doubt that this will be so. The appendices on 'Some useful definitions' and on 'Description of computer codes' are particularly valuable.

In summary reliability analysis, prediction, reliability mathematics, algorithms, organization and analysis of data, reliability modelling and system reliability evaluation, system modelling and maintainability analysis, plus four appendices of mathematical tables, all add up to the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on the 'state-of-the-art' in reliability. It should be on every engineer's bookshelf.

G. W. A. DUMMER

Editor-in-Chief
'Microelectronics and Reliability'
27 King Edwards Road
Malvern Wells
Worcs WR 14 4AJ, England

Correction

Biotechnology in crop improvement

V. L. Chopra and R. P. Sharma

(*Curr. Sci.*, 1991, 60, 543).

V. L. Chopra and R. P. Sharma write:

The opening sentence of para 2 on page 547 should read:

'*Lathyrus sativus*, popularly known as kesar dal, grown widely in central and eastern India, contains a neurotoxin and thus, qualitywise, is not suitable for human consumption. The neurotoxin causes a paralysis of limbs known as lathyrism'.

We are grateful to Dr C. Narayana Reddy, Botany Department, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga 585 106, for bringing this error to our attention.

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