search is needed in order to be sure that (such preparation does) not do more harm than good." Another essay is a brief whitewash of medical and ecological damage by nuclear explosions. The book ends with well presented essays on design of massive shelter systems, on decontamination and on recovery. A relatively optimistic impression is left by these because they do not emphasize accumulation of different deleterious effects.

So rapidly has thought and sophistication developed on the general subject "Survival and the Bomb" that the impression of these essays taken together is that of a message from another time.

MARC ROSS
University of Michigan

Stochastic Theory and Cascade Processes

By S. K. Srinivasan

216 pp. American Elsevier, New York, 1969. $12.50

In recent years there has been considerable interest in, and development of, the *stochastic theory of point processes*. Important contributions have been made by investigators in queueing theory, neutron transport and noise theory. Thus, there is scope for a good account of these developments, particularly as they apply to problems in physics. Unfortunately, this book is written in so murky a manner that it is not a very good introduction to the theory of cascade processes, and it is a quite poor introduction to the auxiliary topics that are mentioned.

The first four chapters are devoted to the general ideas of point processes, and an introduction to the use of generating functionals and associated techniques. Although some rather weighty definitions are given and enlarged on, the specific applications do not appear to include any that are new or that can not be derived by more elementary methods.

In addition, short sections on queueing processes and the kinetic theory of fluids convey no information at all. The chapters that follow are detailed accounts of cascade theory with a final chapter on population processes. In the chapters on cascade theory, there are few results outside of first and second moments, little that advances previous work done in the 1940's and 1950's and no account of the extensive numerical calculations by Messel and his collaborators. The last chapter on population growth extends some models that are of mathematical interest only.

GEORGE WEISS
Chief, Physical Sciences Laboratory
National Institute of Health