where the diagnosis time tends to be much higher than the test and handling time.

I also question Pynn's terminology. In Chapter 4, the term "hurdle rate" is applied as a production-level criterion; I have never seen it so applied. Hurdle rate is commonly applied in financial accounting, referring to the internal rate of return from capital expenditures. Because hurdle rate as a financial accounting term is often considered in the purchase of automatic test equipment, Pynn's usage can be confusing.

Acquisition cost is usually treated as a capital expenditure. To treat it in Chapter 6 in the same context as acquisition cost and operating cost disregards the common accounting practice of amortizing it over many periods. In addition, the term "transfer function," referring to the truth table of a digital printed circuit board, can be misleading. While this reference is not precisely untrue, transfer function suggests an analytical procedure and a statement that is algebraic in nature.

Particularly notable is the ending of this book, a few paragraphs under the heading "Eliminating Testing." Pynn suggests that testing could be eliminated by improving manufacturing quality. How much more powerful the book would have been had he introduced this concept at the beginning and repeated with examples throughout the book. It so naturally follows from his inspiring and perceptive introduction, "The Renaissance In Manufacturing."

The author's orientation toward the role of testing in manufacturing is enlivened, unfortunately, by the conventional wisdom of the ATE industry: The purpose of automatic test equipment is to find faults and permit them to be repaired at the lowest possible cost. Gradually, this philosophy is being replaced by the recognition that testing is the driving engine for identifying faults so that their causes can be successively eliminated—ultimately permitting the successive elimination of testers themselves.

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