Die angeborenen Fehlbildungen der Hand und ihre operative Behandlung. (Congenital Abnormalities of the Hand and Their Operative Treatment.) By Alfred N. WITT, Horst COTTA and Michael JÄGER. 10½ × 7¼ in. Pp. viii+174, with 92 figures in 244 illustrations. Index. 1966. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. Price DM 57.

The classification of congenital abnormalities of the hand almost defies clarity. In this book the authors describe the various types of congenital abnormality and illustrate them fully with a great deal of clinical material. There is an exhaustive list of the many syndromes with associated hand and arm defects.

The authors have based their classification on the now recognised basis of gene mutations, chromosomal abnormalities and exogenous factors.

The operative section is less clear, and not yet fully up to date, particularly in the section on thumb reconstruction. They do not seem to have appreciated the value of the neurovascular island flap, and the pollicisation illustrated is a reproduction from Barsky's book of 1958 without any modification, and producing the ugly, and now superseded, triphalangeal thumb.

This book will, however, be useful to those who are working on the problems of the classification of the congenital abnormalities.—H. Graham STACK.

Physical Examination of the Joints. By William P. BEETHAM, Jun., M.D., A.A.C.P., Former Fellow in Medicine, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota; Howard F. POLLEY, M.D., M.S. in Medicine, F.A.C.P., Head of a Section of Medicine (Rheumatic Diseases), Mayo Clinic; Professor of Medicine, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota; Charles H. SLOCUMB, M.D., M.S. in Pathology, Senior Consultant in a Section of Medicine (Rheumatic Diseases), Mayo Clinic; Professor of Medicine, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota; and Walt. F. WEAVER, M.D., M.S. in Medicine, A.A.C.P., Former Fellow in Medicine, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota, Rochester, Minnesota. 9½ × 6½ in. Pp. x+198, with 127 figures (15 anatomic drawings by Russell L. Drake) and 1 table. Index. 1965. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. Price 52s. 6d.

The preface to this monograph states that it is intended "for physicians and students who wish an elementary, comprehensive guide for conducting the physical examination of joints, and for evaluating involvement of the joints in the various rheumatic diseases." After a simplified and superficial account of its anatomy, each joint is discussed and its examination described. The interpretation of physical signs is almost confined to the field of rheumatology. Evidence suggesting mechanical derangement, degenerative change and infection is scarcely considered, and the book clearly illustrates the difference in approach to the same subject by orthopaedic surgeons and by rheumatologists. In fact, the orthopaedic surgeon, reading it, may find himself saddened and startled by the wide gulf fixed between these specialist fields.

The book is well illustrated, but its numerous omissions diminish its value and interest to orthopaedic surgeons.—J. S. ELLIS.

Biomechanics and Related Bio-Engineering Topics. Proceedings of a Symposium held in Glasgow, September 1964. Edited by R. M. KENEDI, B.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.C.S.T., A.M.I.Mech.E., A.F.R.Ae.S., University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. 9½ × 6½ in. Pp. xviii+493, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1965. Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, Frankfurt: Pergamon Press. Price £7.

This book records the proceedings of a symposium organised by Professor Kenedi in Glasgow in 1964. Both the papers and the ensuing discussion are accurately reported and elegantly presented, and Professor Kenedi is to be congratulated upon both the symposium and its published record. He has taken an important step towards establishing biomechanics in this country.

Eighteen of the thirty-three papers deal with the locomotor system or with orthopaedic instrumentation. The remainder cover subjects as diverse as the skin and the psychoses. The symposium (and this volume) was divided into seven sessions. Of these the fifth session was of greatest interest to orthopaedic surgeons and contained papers on femoral neck fractures, the forces acting through the hip and the load capacity of tubular bone. Rydell reported measurements of the magnitude and direction of the forces acting on the femoral head during walking using a strain-gauged prosthetic replacement for the femoral head. Sorbie, Zalter and Paul reported indirect measurements