Rehabilitation of the Hand. By C. B. WYNN PARRY, *M.B.E., M.A., D.M., M.R.C.P., D.Phys.Med.*, Royal Air Force Consultant in Physical Medicine; assisted by Barbara SUTCLIFFE, Superintendent Physiotherapist, and Doris MILLAR, Superintendent Occupational Therapist, Medical Rehabilitation Unit, Royal Air Force, Chessington; with contributions from D. A. BREWERTON, *M.D., M.R.C.P., D.Phys.Med.*, and D. BROOKS, *F.R.C.S.(I.)*. Second edition. 10×7 in. Pp. xi+382, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1966. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. Price 92s. 6d.

It is a real pleasure to review this new edition of a book that was warmly welcomed on its first appearance. The new sections on sensory re-education, prostheses for amputations, and conduction velocity measurements in localising peripheral nerve lesions have added stature to a book that was always of great value to those concerned with the rehabilitation of the hand. This is not only a book of reference though it is sure to be well thumbed in any hand clinic or department of physical medicine. It is a book that can be read and reread and something more will be gained from it on each occasion. It is very well illustrated and the standard of production of the whole volume is very high.

Those of us, however, who struggle to deal with hands among civilians cannot but regard with envy the whole conception of the rehabilitation centre at Headley Court, with patients living on the spot and under discipline, with no excuses about difficulties at home preventing their regular attendance! However, envy was always a sterile emotion. The whole thesis of this book provides a challenge to the rest of us to adapt the methods to civilian life despite the manifest difficulties.—O. J. VAUGHAN-JACKSON.

Scoliosis. By Robert ROAF, *M.A., M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.)*, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Liverpool. Foreword by H. OSMOND-CLARKE, *C.B.E., F.R.C.S.* 10½×7 in. Pp. xi+147, with many figures and 2 tables. Index. 1966. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 37s. 6d.

Professor Roaf systematises his subject under certain headings—first scientific, consisting of a careful description of his concept of basic anatomy, mechanics and growth factors, followed by clinical factors, and then treatment by conservative and operative means. One gets the impression that previous ideas incompletely worked out and diagrams incompletely explained are invoked, and that the author has moved far ahead while his pedestrian reader was still groping for the full meaning of the previous concept.

The author says he has found conventional methods of treatment, by conservative correction and posterior spinal fusion, offer certain limitations, and he has achieved some success by other methods.

He is particularly impressed by the results obtained by Professor V. Chaklin in Moscow by removal of bone and disc material from the anterior aspect of the bodies in the lordotic lumbar region. One of the author's theories is that hyperlordosis and rotation give rise to a false appearance of kyphosis: the latter is defined following the writings of Von Meyer as the ratio of posterior to anterior vertebral height represented by bodies and discs, the posterior height being made up of neural arches and posterior joints. By this definition, the apical vertebrae may be found to be deformed by posterior and lateral wedging and to be in a position of lordosis, while the spine as a whole appears to have an overall kyphosis when viewed from the side.

The rotation of the bodies results in a lengthening of the anterior common ligament, hence the stimulus to remove bone anteriorly. I find it difficult to accept the author's assumption that this is the cause rather than the result of the present unknown forces leading to progressive scoliosis. The histological finding of shorter columns of growth cartilage on the concave rather than on the convex side of the vertebral bodies is considered to lead inevitably to progressive deformity, and yet we know that the curves can remain static and even improve in spite of inequality of the growth plates.

The arrangement and numbering of figures, especially diagrams, particularly in the Scientific Section, sometimes results in a frustrating search for the appropriate page, and repetition is sometimes more frequent than emphasis demands—for instance, page 95 is almost a repeat of page 94.

These are minor criticisms of a well printed and well laid out book with, on the whole, excellent reproductions of radiographs and photographs. This monograph is deliberately individualistic, provocative and dogmatic, and is I think as stimulating as it was clearly intended to be.

I strongly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in scoliosis.—C. W. MANNING.