important section covers the educational requirements thought necessary for the proper training and certification of the prosthetists and orthotists of the future so as to give them professional status. The selected bibliography is excellent and comprehensive.

In summary, this book provides carefully selected and up-to-date information about this important subject. Many orthopaedic surgeons have in the past tended to neglect this field and it is one in which we should be giving a vigorous lead. This book will help us towards this goal.—D. W. LAMB.

Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation. Genetic, Embryologic and Clinical Aspects. By David W. SMITH, M.D., Professor in Pediatrics, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington. Volume VII in the Series—Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics, Alexander J. SCHAFER, Consulting Editor. 26.6 × 19 cm. Pp. xv + 368, with 618 figures and tables. Index. 1970. Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders Company. Price £6.80.

The great number of deforming syndromes which are the result of environmental or genetic change in the foetus make interesting reading. Many have an orthopaedic interest and anyone who does much work with children will see a number of these patients and will find it a most useful book. Its title "malformations" by intent excludes the myopathies and neuropathies.

It does, however, give only a brief account of each syndrome, one page with photographs, x-rays and references. However, this condensed pattern is in itself valuable because in one short book one has the characteristic appearances of the possible diagnoses in any problem of this type presenting clinically. I see it as a most useful reference book and will personally keep it by me for very frequent consultation. It lists 135 syndromes, most of them rare and often previously not known to me.

With a rapid delineation of these syndromes and the recognition of new ones occurring so frequently the book will unfortunately before long be outdated but we may hope for future editions to keep up with this explosion of knowledge in this field.—J. I. P. JAMES.

Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency—A Congenital Anomaly. A Symposium held in Washington, D.C., June 13, 1968. Edited by George T. AITKEN, M.D., Co-Medical Director, Area Child Amputee Center, Division of Services to Crippled Children, Grand Rapids, Michigan; with six other contributors. Foreword by Arthur J. LESSER, M.D. 28 × 22 cm. Pp. ix + 111, with many figures and tables. 1969. Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences. Price \$5.75.

This symposium brought together the experience of a number of centres in North America in the management of this extremely difficult and fortunately rare disability. With certain modifications and some sub-division Aitken's original classification of the condition gives a useful basis on which the planning of treatment can be considered, but nevertheless it is essential that each child be assessed individually.

Bilateral cases rarely warrant operative treatment lest their ability to walk without prostheses be interfered with, but for the unilateral case the reader will find here a wealth of information regarding possible surgical procedures, their indications, results and complications. In the long run the problem is largely one of prostheses, their construction and fitting, and orthopaedic surgeons would be unwise to undertake treatment except in consultation with a first-class prosthetic service. Dr Aitken is to be congratulated on bringing together these splendidly illustrated papers which will surely act as a reference book on the subject for some years to come.—T. J. FAIRBANK.

The Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. By Peter BEIGHTON, M.D., M.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Ed.), D.C.H., D.T.M. & H., St Thomas's Hospital, London. 22 × 14.6 cm. Pp. 194, with 65 figures and 9 tables. Index. 1970. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. Price £3.15.

Part of this excellent monograph has already appeared in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. It shows what can be discovered when one man takes a rare and little known disease, finds a large number of cases and writes a very full account of them. The disease proves to be a fascinating syndrome which can, after his study, be clearly differentiated into several different varieties, each with its characteristic genetic behaviour. This type of study needs to be emulated for a number of other conditions which at present are rare and little understood.

Although many of the manifestations are unlikely to present to an orthopaedic surgeon, when one reads this book it is surprising the number of possible ways that one might see such patients without fully recognising the disease background.—J. I. P. JAMES.