unlikely to be common if they are seriously disadvan-
tageous and that those genetic defects that are both
common and severe are unlikely to be determined by
simple hereditary mechanisms. For these reasons
medical genetics is as yet of limited interest to students
and to most clinicians. Though some elementary
principles are expounded, the text is mostly devoted to
the demonstration that medical genetics is making a
major contribution to medicine by its recognition that
genetic factors in disease are not only widespread but
often brought out or masked by environmental factors,
and that in consequence the management of disease is
likely increasingly to depend on adjustment of indi-
viduals identifiable as being subject to special (genetically
determined) risk. The manipulation of environmental
factors in the control of genetic disease is of course no
radical break with medical practice.

New Directions in Human Genetics. A Symposium.
Editor: Daniel Bergsma. (Birth Defects Original Series,
Vol. I, No. 2, December 1965). (Pp. 84; illustrated.)
Available free of charge. New York: The National

The first of these symposia was held at Cornell
University in March 1965 to commemorate the cen-
tennial year of the founding of the University and the
publication of Mendel’s paper. The papers aimed less
at giving new information than at indicating trends and
new developments. The subjects covered were: the
study of genetics in man—retrospect and prospect, by
L. C. Dunn; certain embryological considerations, by
Alberto Monroy; the future of mammalian cell genetics,
by Robert S. Krooth; genetics and evolution in three
human serum proteins, by Alexander G. Bearn and
W. Carey Parker; the chromosomes, by Klaus Patau;
and the application of knowledge, by John H. Edwards.
The contribution by Krooth, which is exceptionally wide
and adequate, occupies almost half of this issue.

Die Angeborenen Fehlbildungen der Hand und
ihre operative Behandlung. By Alfred N. Witt,
Horst Cotta, and Michael Jäger. (Pp. viii + 174; 92

If not a tract for the times, this book is a welcome
signpost of trends in medical genetics. The authors of
the Congenital malformations of the hand and their
surgical treatment are orthopaedic surgeons who recog-
nize that the concentration of attention to traumatic
lesions of the hand no longer reflects current problems,
and that the congenital anomalies present specific
surgical requirements. The first half of the book is
devoted to an excellent introductory chapter on mal-
formations in general and to their experimental pro-
duction, and this is followed by a competent survey of
the commoner congenital and hereditary anomalies of
the fingers and hand. There is also a useful tabulation
of the syndromes in which hand defects occur. In all this
no new ground is broken, but the second half of the
book with its stress on the poor viability of malformed
tissue and the need for minimal surgical trauma in
operations is a thoughtful contribution, of value to the
geneticist and still more to the surgeon to whom it is
directed.

Malformations Associées de la Tête et des Extré-
26 figures + 3 tables. 40 F.) Paris: Masson et Cie.
1966.

Since Apert in 1906 and Crouzon in 1912 described
the syndromes that carry their names, a voluminous
literature on multiple anomalies has developed, which
has drawn not only on fresh observations but also on
records in the older literature. Many of these obser-
Vations show a consistent pattern, but a number fail
to fit into any pattern. While overlaps and formes frustes
do occur, the classification of these defects presents
considerable difficulties both clinically and pathologic-
ally. These difficulties are not helped by a mass of
cryptic designations of doubtful validity.

The greater part of the monograph by Tridon and
Thiriet is devoted to the clinical aspects of the condi-
tions covered by their review, and presents a welcom-
E clarification of a confused literature. The opening
section deals with the cranio-facial anomalies. These
are discussed under four major headings: anomalies
of the cranium, the cranio-facial skeleton, the facial
skeleton, and cranio-cleido dysostosis. The authors
rightly regard many of the anomalous cases as vari-
ants of a relatively few well-established entities and so help
to bring some order in an apparently disorderly mass.
A second section deals with the eye: this is particularly
lucid, the literature being discussed under five headings:
anopthalmos, coloboma, retinal anomalies, cataract, and
neuromuscular defects. A concluding section deals
with encephalopathies and is mainly devoted to Down’s
syndrome. The clinical part of the monograph is sup-
ported by some 350 references and these, though far
from complete, are adequate.

In addition to these clinical discussions, there are
chapters on the embryology of the extremities and on
experimental and clinical teratology. The genetic impli-
cations are indicated throughout the text. The over-all
conclusion that there is no embryological basis for the
association of anomalies of hands and feet with those of
the head does not of course break new ground.