have been prepared to abandon the usual empirical approach of their profession for a more rational, scientific appraisal. Some have even laid aside their mantle of deity and brought themselves to believe that engineers, without any medical qualification, may achieve an understanding of the mechanical functioning of joints equal to their own.

Dr Maquet, a distinguished European orthopaedic surgeon, has grasped the importance of biomechanics in relation to joints and applied the principles to the knee. The book is beautifully produced and illustrated, although not easy to read. Its aim is to develop surgical procedures for the relief of osteoarthrotic symptoms, based on these principles. This comes over particularly well in the procedures for correcting valgus and varus deformities, as well as those for reducing patellofemoral forces. His simple models to explain the concepts of stress, and the use of photo-elastic techniques to demonstrate stress distribution, are interesting and valuable to the uninitiated.

The book presumes that the relation between stress and osteoarthritis is clear—which it is not! Likewise, the model of

the knee used for the force analysis is oversimplified. It does not permit the book's authoritative statements. Dr Maquet has made life difficult for himself in his laborious force analysis, some of which is unsound (e.g. the patellofemoral force analysis). The technique for the study of the load-bearing function of the menisci is dubious. The results, although interesting, are therefore not conclusive and would not withstand rigorous examination.

My mechanical engineering colleagues with whom I discussed this work used more earthy terms to discuss their reservations. As a clinician I prefer to give Dr Maquet a pass mark for the attempt.

V. WRIGHT

Principles of Joint Protection in Chronic Rheumatic Disease. By M. Brattström. (Pp. 111; illustrated. £3.00.) Student-litteratur: Lund, Sweden. Distributed by Wolfe Publishing: London. 1977.

The first part of this pleasant little book is meant for physicians and therapists.

I think it might appeal to students, but rheumatologists in training would do better to see their occupational therapy colleagues in action. The references are scanty and some are incomplete but there is an excellent, very brief account of the pathology of rheumatoid disease followed by a detailed 'analysis of functional handicaps' which is really about the benefit of analysing the anatomical and physiological strains undergone by the diseased locomotor system in the performance of perfectly ordinary tasks such as washing up. Function of the hand is dealt with separately from function of weight-bearing joints and the many illustrations show the 'right' and 'wrong' methods.

Part two of the book illustrates instruction leaflets for patients. The first, for example, is called 'A word about the anatomy of the hand', and then there are leaflets about common difficulties and how to overcome them and about common deformities and how to prevent them. I do not think the average British patient would be very interested in the leaflets but I fear that they would prove fascinating to the already obsessional.

MARY CORBETT

Notes

Handbook of the International League against Rheumatism — VI Edition, 1977

The latest edition of the *Handbook*, the official register of all member rheumatologists, is now available. It has a size of 11.9 × 21 cm and 620 pages. The new edition has been completely revised and brought up to date. It is graphically produced in such a way as to allow the information to be found quickly and easily. In addition it contains a listing of the ILAR Standing Committees with their chairmen and members. Copies may be obtained at Sfr 42 each, plus postage, from ILAR, PO Box 149, CH-4010 Basle, Switzerland.

English edition of the *Revue du Rhumatisme et des Maladies Ostéo-Articulaires*

The *Revue du Rhumatisme*, the official publication of the French Society of Rheumatology, has published since 1933 most of the work devoted to rheumatology by French authors and numerous French speaking foreign authors. This English language edition of the *Revue du Rhumatisme* is designed to encourage diffusion of this work in English speaking countries. It will include three issues yearly in which will be published the most interesting reports from those appearing in the French language edition.