Continuing the examination of methodology, the final paper by David Reason questions the very notion of classification as a basis for an anthropology of knowledge. Classification, as opposed to the "categorization" of natural language, is an analytic operation "which dissect[s] entities so that either the truth or falsity of particular predicates may be established in their cases" (p. 223). It is the dominant "mode of signification" in our capitalist society. The dominant mode of signification in a culture, it is claimed, is determined by the way in which production is organized. In non-capitalist cultures — such as the Polish peasant family farm — a different mode of signification is dominant. The appropriate categories for a description of that culture are thus essentially different: "Those entities which signify for us signify not at all there" (p. 228). This is illustrated through a lengthy and somewhat mystifying discussion of the notion of "textual time" (as opposed to the "abstract time" prevalent in our capitalist thinking) which concludes that the peasant consciousness is not symbolic and not based on the "empiricist conception of a subject-object dichotomy" (p. 240); it is therefore not amenable to classificatory description in the usual sense. The paper is interesting, again, for its attention to methodology and underlying assumptions. One is hard put, however, to agree with the author that the material on the peasant family farm in the long, rambling section II was always justified and to the point.

The contributors to this volume, as we have seen, attack a common conceptual problem from the different viewpoints of philosophy and anthropology. (This limited perspective becomes apparent when we consider the curious fact that the important work of the psychologist Eleanor Rosch on universals of classification is nowhere cited.) Although the studies of folk classification predominate, they are nicely complemented by the broader perspective of the philosophy of science in the final essays. The questions posed at the outset have not been answered, but the volume of papers had admirably illustrated the complexity of the issues. There are gaps, of course; nevertheless the book can be recommended as representative of the promising trend toward interdisciplinary cooperation in problem-oriented research.

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WINGERT, F.: **Medizinische Informatik.** (Medical Informatics) Stuttgart: Teubner 1979. 272 p., 68 figs., 18 tabl., 178 refs., DM 19.80 (In German). = Leitfäden der angewandten Informatik.

This publication is a handbook-like compilation of problems and methods in medical informatics which could be used even as a text book for special courses concerning the topic "medical informatics". The author described the following sub-disciplines in particular regarding them as essential concepts of medical informatics: basic concepts of informatics, statistical decision models and -strategies, mathematical classification, classification of concepts, medical linguistics, data structures in medicine, relations, data input and error checking, generation of information, representation of information, information systems, and real time data processing.

The chapters "classification" and "medical linguistics" being of particular interest to the reader of this journal, are given 96 pages altogether. The chapter "classification" is split into the two parts "classification of concepts" and "mathematical classification" (i.e. numerical classification). The fundamental problems in numerical classification are illustrated: arranging concepts according to a given classification scheme by a special algorithm (in this publication called "classification of first order") and establishing a classification (called "classification of second order"). The author classifies questions of decision finding, support, and strategy also as classification problems.

In the description of problems concerning the classification of concepts special consideration has been given to basic linguistical topics.

The semantic dimensions of medicine given are similar to the facet principles of Ranganathan. In addition, the basic classification systems for clinical purposes are described. Thus, the classification problems encountered are viewed both from theoretical and pragmatic points of view. Many of the problems are seen through the glasses of a person working in the field of medicine, though; they can only be generalized in certain aspects. On the other hand, this orientation toward application in medicine is an advantage of the book, since practical problems can be illustrated very well for medically informed people. In spite of the fact that the book is mathematically-oriented, non-mathematicians in the field of classification would have no difficulty in comprehending it as all the formulae have been explained in a detailed manner.

This book is recommended to all libraries and library schools involved in the theory and practice of classification in various fields of science.

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KAZMIERCZAK, H. (Ed.): **Erfassung und maschinelle Verarbeitung von Bilddaten. Grundlagen und Anwendungen.** (Input and machine processing of pictorial data. Foundations and applications) (In German). Wien: Springer Verlag 1980. 399 p.

Das Buch ‚Erfassung und maschinelle Verarbeitung von Bilddaten' gibt mit Einzelbeiträgen von 29 Autoren eine komprimierte Darstellung der Grundlagen und der Anwendungen dieses Gebietes. Damit wird gleichzeitig — insbesondere bei den Anwendungen — eine Übersicht über Aktivitäten entsprechender Forschungseinrichtungen in der Bundesrepublik gegeben.

Nach Einführung der grundlegenden Begriffe der Bildverarbeitung werden zunächst die Geräte vorgestellt für die Eingabe von Bildern in digitale Verarbeitungssysteme und für die Ausgabe gespeicherter oder verarbeiteter Bildinformationen. Verarbeitungsschritte, die häufig auf die Bildaufnahme folgen, werden durch lokale Operatoren und lineare Transformationen beschrieben. Statistische Klassifikatoren und die Bildanalyse werden sehr