## RECENT PATENTS [a]

**Artificial Hand Having a Body Constructed from Separate Molded Plastic Parts for Easier Replacement of Damaged Parts:** Daniel B. Becker. An artificial hand with a molded plastic body portion and helically wound flexible fingers. The body portion is made up of separate molded sections for easy replacement of broken or damaged parts. The flexible fingers are secured to the knuckle-forming section and are controlled by finger actuating rods within the hand body. (Patent No. 3,413,658, Dec. 3, 1968; filed Oct. 20, 1965, Serial No. 498,439; 12 claims.)

**Blind Aid:** Leslie Kay, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand, assignor to National Research Development Corporation, a corporation of Great Britain. An aid for the blind wherein acoustic wave energy, preferably ultrasonic, is radiated to a field of view and is received therefrom upon reflection by an object by means of a transmitter-receiver system carried in an eyeglass-type headset. The transmitter-receiver system incorporates two channels fed from respective transducers carried on the headset and connected to respective aural elements for furnishing audible signals to the left and right ears of the user. (Patent No. 3,366,922, Jan. 30, 1968; filed Apr. 11, 1966, Serial No. 541,851, claims priority, application Great Britain, Apr. 29, 1965, 17,983/65; 11 claims.)

**Implantable Electrode:** Norman R. Hagfors, assignor to Medtronic, Inc., a corporation of Minnesota. An electrode apparatus for stimulating a nerve consisting of at least three electrodes, one of which is positioned between the other two. The electrical connection between them is such that the two outside electrodes are in current guarding relation to the inner electrode in order to prevent stray current from stimulating adjacent nerves. The electrodes are imbedded in a substance substantially inert to body fluids and tissue. (Patent No. 3,405,715, Oct. 15, 1968; filed Oct. 20, 1966, Serial No. 588,015; 6 claims.)

**Joint Lock Control:** Mitchell Walters, assignor of 49 percent to Edgar W. Borchert, Lexington, Ky. A device to provide pneumatic control particularly adapted for use in conjunction with the knee joint of an artificial leg. The control is operatively responsive to disengage the knee lock upon applying pressure on the toe portion of the foot on the artificial leg. (Patent No. 3,408,660, Nov. 5, 1968; filed June 20, 1966, Serial No. 558,665; 10 claims.)

**Knee Joint for an Artificial Leg:** Jan Prahl, assignor to Wilhelm Julius Teufel, a limited-liability company of Germany. A knee joint for an artificial leg which permits the weight of the wearer to be applied to the bent knee joint without causing angular movement of the thigh and shank members relative to each other, yet permits such angular movement to take place freely if the leg does not carry body weight. (Patent No. 3,407,409, Oct. 29, 1968; filed July 9, 1965, Serial No. 470,788, claims priority, application Germany, Oct. 5, 1964, T 27,140; 7 claims.)

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[a] Patents may be ordered by number from the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, at 50 cents each.

**Prosthetic Device with Electronic Proportional Control Grasp:** Lloyd L. Salisbury, Jr., assignor to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army. A prosthetic device including sensor means for providing a signal indicative of the slippage of an object from the grasp of the device and electrical and electronic means responsive to this signal for controlling the grasping action of the terminal device. (Patent No. 3,423,765, Jan. 28, 1969; filed Aug. 11, 1966, Serial No. 572,170; 8 claims.)

**Prosthetic Limb Having an Elastic Covering:** Rafael Villalta Garcia, Madrid, Spain. A prosthesis for above-knee amputees consisting of a skeletal structure with an articulated knee joint. An elastic cosmetic cover exerts resilient force on the skeletal structure when in movement thus tending to return the device to the extended position. (Patent No. 3,400,408, Sept. 10, 1968; filed Oct. 23, 1964, Serial No. 406,044; 8 claims.)