Calcified Tissues 1965. Proceedings of the Third European Symposium on Calcified Tissues held at Davos (Switzerland), April 11–16, 1965. Edited by H. FLEISCH, H. J. J. BLACKWOOD and M. OWEN, with the assistance of M. P. FLEISCH-RONCETTI. 10×6½ in. Pp. xiv+280, with many figures and tables. 1966. Berlin, Heidelberg and New York: Springer-Verlag. Price DM 68.

Symposia of this type have been held annually since 1963, when the Bone and Tooth Society sponsored a meeting in Oxford in order to bring together research workers chiefly from European countries. The second symposium was held in Belgium in March 1964, and the most recent meeting (the fourth of the series) was held in Holland in March of this year. The 1967 meeting will be in France.

Each symposium has taken the form of a one-week residential conference for about 100 participants. The meetings have been attended by research workers from virtually all European countries, from the U.S.A., and to a lesser extent from other parts of the world. Their continuance on an annual basis, as well as the large number of participants and the high standard of the contributed papers, testify to the success of the venture.

To some extent, each meeting has concentrated attention on a group of topics of special interest to the local hosts and organisers, and invited reviews of work in these fields are an important feature of the meetings. At Davos, for example, topics for discussion were: 1) cell function in the formation, maintenance and destruction of osseous tissue; 2) response of calcified tissue to mechanical factors; 3) mechanisms of calcification and diseases related to mineral deposition; 4) hormones and bone; 5) fundamental structure of dental hard tissues. All the papers presented at the conference sessions are published in the proceedings of the Davos meeting in a fairly complete form and with first class illustrations: the volume constitutes an excellent commentary on current work and new developments in each of the fields concerned.

The detailed arrangements for the individual meetings, and the form of the published proceedings, are the responsibility of a small organising committee which changes from year to year. The proceedings of the first three meetings were published in complete form (Oxford 1963; *Bone and Tooth*, ed. H. J. J. Blackwood. Pergamon Press: Liège 1964; *Calcified Tissues*, ed. L. J. Richelle and M. J. Dallemagne. University of Liège). For the Dutch meeting, however, it was thought better to pre-publish an abridged version of the papers to be presented: this was carried out by the Excerpta Medica Foundation, and the publication (Leiden 1966; *Calcified Tissues*, ed. P. J. Gaillard, A. van den Hooff and R. Steendijk. Excerpta Medica Foundation), with a limited amount of tabular and illustrative material, was available to participants at the time of the meeting. This was certainly an advantage to those fortunate enough to be able to attend the meeting, although there may be some regret that no handsome volume, akin to those of the earlier meetings, is available as a record.—H. A. SISSONS.

Pathology of the Connective Tissue Diseases. By D. L. GARDNER, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.(E.), M.C.Path., Senior Lecturer in Pathology, the University, Edinburgh; Pathologist, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. 10×7½ in. Pp. x+456, with 272 figures and some tables. Index. 1965. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. Price £5 5s.

The pathology of rheumatic diseases has been inflated by so much new knowledge that this has become difficult to evaluate; at times it has seemed that an almost total ignorance of connective tissue disease has changed to complete knowledge in a generation. This book first describes the general pathological processes of connective tissue, and then progressively builds up a clear picture of the changes in rheumatoid arthritis. It leaves us in no doubt that our understanding of basic problems is still very incomplete. Other forms of arthropathy and the hereditary and metabolic diseases of connective tissue are dealt with more briefly, and the inclusion of rare disorders and tumours makes the book comprehensive and of value for reference purposes. The bibliography is up to date and adequate. Dr Gardner avoids too many histological minutiae, and this may disappoint a few experts in the field, but he has succeeded in making a general impact, mainly by the use of high quality photographs of clinical disease, radiographs and gross specimens in addition to histological sections. Some of the most valuable of these are very low power (×4 to ×30) photomicrographs of whole bones or joints, and these microanatomical preparations will bring the clinician, radiologist and pathologist together on common ground, though few will realise that they are technical triumphs.

In many ways this is a model text, with an element of compromise that should satisfy both established specialists and those in training. The clarity of the descriptions of pathological changes, coupled with the broad approach and excellent production, should be sufficient recommendation to postgraduate students, as well as to rheumatologists and pathologists. In an age of medicated survival and iatrogenic diseases none should overlook the salutary chapter on the pathological changes associated with treatment; this underlines what can now be done, in more senses than one.—R. A. B. DRURY.