Bony Pathology of Children's Growth. By Professor M. VOLKOV, Director of the Central Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedics in Moscow. 21 cm. $\times$ 16.5 cm. Pp. 495, with 250 illustrations. Index. 1968. Moscow: Medicine. Price 3 roubles 71 copecks (approximately 30s.). (In Russian.)

This is a comprehensive account of the various disorders of bone which can be met with in children. The book is in four sections. The first is concerned with classification; the second considers the link between new growths and dysplasias of the skeleton in children and is a comprehensive account of bone tumours in children; the third is an account of bone dysplasias; and the fourth is an account of the local manifestations of various bone conditions. Professor Volkov's classification follows orthodox lines, dividing dysplastic disorders of the bones into disorders of development of particular bones, dysplasias of the skeleton, tumours of bone, traumatic disorders, inflammatory disorders and dystrophic and atrophic processes. The causes of the latter he divides into exogenous, such as toxins, poisons or alimentary disorders, and endogenous, such as endocrine or to renal disease, etc. He divides the primary tumours into osteogenic and non-osteogenic. Giant-cell tumours he calls osteoblastoclastomas; in other respects his classification resembles that used in this country. He does not speculate about the etiology of the dysplasias but illustrates these well with clinical radiographic and histological pictures. It is interesting that he prefers the name congenital chondrodystrophy for the condition which is usually known in this country as achondroplasia. The book throughout reflects Professor Volkov's vast experience of disorders of bone in childhood and will be a standard reference book for many years.—ROBERT ROAF.

The Growth Plate and Its Disorders. A monograph based on a conference held in Jamaica in 1967 and sponsored by The University of the West Indies. Dedicated to the Trustees of The Lascelles Community Fund who made the conference possible. Edited by Mercer RANG, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.C.S.(C.), Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, and the Ontario Centre for Crippled Children. Clinical Teacher, University of Toronto, lately, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, University Hospital, Jamaica, and Senior Lecturer in Orthopaedics, University of the West Indies. With twenty other contributors. 25.5 cm. $\times$ 18 cm. Pp. xi + 203, with many figures and a frontispiece. Index. 1969. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 55s.

Reports of the proceedings of a conference are apt to prove heavy going for the reader so it is a pleasure to record that this monograph is an outstanding exception. Most of the text is the work of the principal author whose style combines lucidity with a certain individualism all too rare in contemporary scientific publications, which enables the book to be read for entertainment as well as for information.

In the first part the present state of our knowledge of the normal growth plate is reviewed, including a particularly good and simple account of the biochemistry, while in the second, a description is given of the various clinical disorders which may affect the plate, with the laudable object of relating the two. Unhappily the sad fact emerges that despite our considerable knowledge of the workings of the normal plate this is of relatively little help in understanding its behaviour when diseased, although this is of course no fault of the authors.

The latter freely admit that speculation has been permitted in places where final proof of a hypothesis is still lacking, and in my view this is entirely justified in a volume of this kind, for it is after all ideas which will solve the problems in the end and these appear to be in shorter supply than data. This feature does in fact represent one of the greatest strengths of the book, and few workers who are interested in the research aspects of this subject could read it without being stimulated to further thought and possibly activity.

Although the text comprises less than 200 pages it could perhaps have been pruned a little further. While general principles of treatment must obviously be discussed in the clinical chapters, the occasional intrusion of detailed surgical techniques, as in the section on tibia vara, seems inappropriate in a book of this sort. Likewise the inclusion of a sketch of the normal growth plate on four separate occasions seems a little excessive even in the interests of clarity. Nevertheless, apart from this trivial point the illustrations are of a high quality and the text is clear.

Altogether the work can be unhesitatingly recommended not only to the research worker but also to the clinician who seeks a fuller understanding of the workings of the growth plate. To them it will represent a concise and easily read source of this information, at the same time presenting such scientific information as we possess about the clinical conditions themselves.—B. MCKIBBIN.