La Fracture du Col du Fémur chez l'Enfant et l'Adolescent. (Fracture of the Neck of the Femur in the Child and Adolescent.) By Alexandre BOITZY. Preface by M.-E. MÜLLER. 24×16 cm. Pp. 170, with 79 figures and some tables. Index. 1971. Paris: Masson & Cie. Price 65 F.

The complications of this injury are so distressing and so frequent that any book which clears up our views on the subject and suggests a logical and satisfactory line of treatment has particular value. In a review of twenty-eight cases seen by the author, three of which were over the age of twenty, sixteen developed an aseptic necrosis of the femoral head. This is slightly under 50 per cent and is probably too high, as these were a selected group. It does, however, confirm the high rate of complications, amounting approximately to the 33 per cent given in other publications. The fracture is classified in accordance with its level and the degree of displacement, as this, as in the adult, seriously affects the prognosis.

The treatment recommended is immediate open operation with visual reduction of the fracture and fixation with one or two threaded screws. (The author does not appear to be familiar with cannulated screws which facilitate the radiographically controlled "blind" procedure in undisplaced cases.) He has treated seven cases ranging in age from two to twelve years by this method, with satisfactory results in six cases, and in the seventh only a coxa vara. It would therefore appear that immediate operation and perfect fixation does at least reduce to almost negligible proportions the risk of non-union and avascular necrosis of the femoral head. Operative treatment is undertaken as a matter of urgency; weight-bearing is restricted for several months. This is the main message of the book.

The remainder of the book concerns itself with the treatment of late results and of complications. In spite of the author's statement that the insertion of large quantities of metal is undesirable, many of the illustrations show more than a fair share of metal. This book will do much to clear up the doubts and hesitations of those whose experience of this fracture is insufficient to come to a final decision about its treatment. It is to be hoped that a wider practice of the author's method will show that his conclusions are as correct and satisfactory as he maintains.—J. G. BONNIN.

Calcitonin 1969. Proceedings of the Second International Symposium, London, July 21–24, 1969. President of the Organising Committee Professor E. C. AMOROSO, F.R.S. 24×15·8 cm. Pp. xiv+568, with many figures and some tables. 1970. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. Price £9·50.

Often the greatest value of a collection of papers from a symposium is to the participants themselves. This volume should be of much wider interest, however, because it presents an up-to-date and, in some respects, even a futuristic view of the control of calcium metabolism in the broadest sense. There are seven main sections—Chemistry and Immunohistochemistry, Bioassay, Physiology, Cytochemistry, the Ultimobranchial Gland, New Concepts, and Studies in Man—and in many of these there are papers dealing with the mineralisation of bone and the effect upon it of calcitonin administration.

There can be no quicker way in which to become familiar with present concepts of the nature of calcium homeostasis than to read and to digest the material contained in this book.—A. G. E. PEARSE.

Modern Trends in Rheumatology—2. Edited by Alan G. S. HILL, M.C., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), M.R.C.P., Director, Oxford Regional Rheumatic Diseases Research Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury; with thirty-one contributors. 22×14·6 cm. Pp. viii+376, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1971. London: The Butterworth Group. Price £6.

The orthopaedic surgeon is increasingly faced with the need to understand advances not only in his own field but in related fields, and the great value of this book is that it helps to make him aware of progress in scientific areas associated with the practice of orthopaedics. In some cases the surgeon's difficulties are increased by lack even of a common language, and here this volume is most helpful.

The clinical aspects of rheumatoid diseases are dealt with in chapters on the cervical spine, the foot, the hand and the major joints, but perhaps the chief interest to orthopaedic surgeons is in the sections on Bioengineering and Etiology and in the present views on Immunosuppression and Endocrine Therapy. In these clear and concise chapters a great deal of information is presented, each with its list of references for more detailed study. The range of the book is remarkable. In 360 pages the