STORTI, Edoardo ASCARI, Ermete MOLINARI and Gabriella GAMBA. II—La Sinoviectomia del ginocchio. (The Synovectomy of the Knee Joint in the Haemophilic Patients.) By Mario BONI and Luciano CECILIANI. LVII Congresso della Società Italiana di Ortopedia e Traumatologia, Bologna, October 2–5, 1972. 28 × 20·5 cm. Pp. 152, with 58 figures and 13 tables. Index. 1972. Italy: Istituto di Clinica Medica Generale e Terapia Medica dell'Università di Pavia. Not for sale.

This is a monograph in Italian on synovectomy of the haemophilic knee joint. Fortunately there is an English summary of both papers. Their descriptions of management are detailed and interesting and one must acknowledge our debt to these workers for adding this form of treatment to our armamentarium. In evaluating the results of treatment the synovitic response to haemorrhage does regress. Often it is difficult to say how a haemarthrosis will respond with time and conservative treatment of factor replacement, support and/or physiotherapy. Also it is important to describe and measure exactly the amount of factor deficiency because the difference between a patient with 0 per cent Factor VIII and 2–3 per cent is enormous, as are the patients' frequency of bleeding and severity of pathological change.

Pain was not emphasised very much as a criterion of response to synovectomy and of course this is very disabling to the majority of haemophilic patients. In our much smaller series, although synovectomy prevented the frequency of major haemarthroses, several of our patients continued to have smaller but painful bleeds probably extracapsular *in situ* rather than within the reconstituted synovial lining or the joint space proper.

The text shows some radiographs of patients with quite advanced articular changes who had undergone synovectomy. They do illustrate that these joints should have synovectomy as early as possible before there are irrevocable changes. One is impressed how very little Factor VIII and IX was required, contained within fresh frozen plasma (of dosages 18–20 millilitres/K per day) to prevent operative haemorrhage, and even during the physiotherapy period. The systemic use of the anti-fibrinolytic substance epsilon-amino caproic acid is emphasised as is a callicrein inhibitor being injected into the joint space. This has not been our practice and is more common in Italian practice than in other countries.

To workers in this field the monograph is a valuable summary of a unique experience.—Robert B. DUTHIE.

Abraham Colles 1773–1843 Surgeon of Ireland. By Martin FALLON, O.B.E., M.Ch., F.R.C.S.I., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.A.C.S., Consultant Surgeon, Royal Infirmary, Perth; Honorary Senior Lecturer in Clinical Surgery, University of Dundee. With a foreword by Francis A. DUFF, President, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. 22 × 14·5 cm. Pp. xii + 238, with 19 figures plus frontispiece. Index. 1972. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. Price £2·25.

It is particularly appropriate that a detailed biography of Abraham Colles should be published at this time when the bicentenary of his birth is being celebrated (*Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* (1973): 55–B, 452). This short book traces the fascinating and outstanding career from a surgical apprentice who became President of his college at the age of twenty-eight, through the middle years as Professor and on to a rewarding old age as undisputed head of his profession in Ireland, whose enhanced prestige was due largely to his own efforts and example.

The first three chapters describing the contemporary historical scene, the Colles family and early years are necessary but a little dull. From then onwards, however, the author revels in his theme and the book becomes exciting and gay, reading almost like a novel and containing much remarkable and detailed scholarship. It is with delight that one learns of Colles and his contemporaries, of the Surgeons School in Dublin and many famous names including those of Cheyne, Stokes and Graves. There are detailed comprehensive chapters on the Colles publications, the Colles eponyms and last, but not least, a portrait of the man filled with his energy and indomitable perseverance.

The book is full of apt quotations and anecdotes which have obviously been carefully chosen and are thoughtful reminders of the problems of teaching and surgery of today. I found this book a great pleasure to read and digest and I would strongly recommend it to those interested in the history of orthopaedic surgery.—A. H. C. RATLIFF.

Bone—Certain Aspects of Neoplasia. Proceedings of the Twenty-fourth Symposium of the Colston Research Society held in the University of Bristol, April 5–8, 1972. Colston Papers No. 24. Edited by C. H. G. PRICE and F. G. M. ROSS, with the assistance of A. L. EYRE-BROOK, B. T. HALE and J. H. MIDDLEMISS. 19 × 25·5 cm. Pp. xxiv + 475, with many figures and tables. 1973. London: Butterworths. Price £12.

Since 1948 the Colston Research Society of Bristol has promoted annual symposia and this volume reports the twenty-fourth of these. On two previous occasions the subject has been allocated to the Faculty of Medicine of Bristol University, and Colston Paper No. 24 reports the 1972 meeting of seventy-six distinguished participants from all parts of the world, when some aspects of neoplasm of bone were discussed. The Bristol Bone Tumour Registry has been in existence for a similar period and during its twenty-five years has accumulated 1,500 fully documented cases of bone tumour. So often verbatim accounts of proceedings, such as this, make unsatisfactory reading but the opposite is the case here. Careful reporting and, no doubt, skilful editing make this a remarkable book. Professor Middlemiss, who is President, ends his short introduction with these words: "For readers of these proceedings it is hoped that the spirit, scientific level and sense of probing that enflamed and enthused this meeting may strike them." This hope is fully realised and the papers and discussion on giant-cell tumour, Paget's sarcoma, Ewing's tumour, radiation induced tumours, and metastases emerge with great freshness and clarity. There are also sections on experimental studies and immunology.

The international quality of the speakers and the frank and forthright nature of the discussions make the reader wish that he had been present and almost give him the impression that he was. This provides an excellent point of reference for present views and future research in a fascinating field involving many related specialities and underlines once more how essential is the team approach to these serious diseases.—James ELLIS.

Reconstruction Surgery and Traumatology. Edited by G. CHAPCHAL. Volume 13. 27×18 cm. Pp. ix+209, with 96 figures, 1 colour plate and 10 tables. 1972. Basel, München, Paris, London, New York, Sydney: S. Karger. Price S. fr. 98; U.S. \$27.45; DM 89; £10.80.

This edition has articles on operative treatment of cerebral palsy; neurosurgical aspects of operation on the spinal cord, the indications for phenol injections; and orthopaedic operations on the limbs and trunk—including scoliosis. Under the heading of traumatology, fracture-dislocations of the dorso-lumbar spine with emphasis on the blood supply, internal fixation of fractures of the mandible, skin defects over bone, and pressure sores in paraplegics are discussed. The last section on scoliosis consists of two short articles, one concerned with current theories about the etiology of infantile scoliosis, and the other on biochemistry—analysing glycosaminoglycans in patients with scoliosis, from Russia.

This publication suffers from the complications of an editorial board with representatives from fifteen countries, which must greatly complicate editing contributions in many languages—including English—into English, itself a foreign language to most. The articles vary from excellent well-argued scientific papers to rather patronising dogmatic and sometimes badly constructed essays of little interest to those working in that field, but difficult to appraise by other orthopaedic surgeons. It has, however, the merit of crossing many ethnic and language barriers.—C. W. MANNING.

Genetics in Orthopaedics. Seventh Symposium 1972, Debrecen. Preface by Dr Karoly PAP. 17×24.5 cm. Pp. 69, with some figures and tables.

This is a report, written in English, of a symposium held in December 1972 in Hungary. There is one outstanding study by Dr A. Czeizel: "An epidemiological study on the congenital dislocation of the hip in Budapest". He studied nearly 109,000 live births in Budapest between 1962 and 1967 and his paper deals with incidence and epidemiological factors such as seasonal variation, type of birth, birth weight, gestation period, birth order, parental age and social position of the patients. It is outstanding by any standards and I think its existence should be brought to the notice of orthopaedic surgeons. However, being epidemiological rather than clinical it is probably of greater interest to a journal like the *Journal of Medical Genetics*, or *The British Journal of Social and Preventive Medicine*.

There is one other clinical genetics survey on "The etiology of muscular torticollis" by Dr L. Kalmar and Dr L. Papp, but the rest of the symposium deals with more general genetic problems.

The rest of the book is somewhat less impressive but it certainly illustrates that the contributors are well up to date on western literature.—Ruth WYNNE-DAVIES.

Connective Tissue and Ageing. Proceedings of the Workshop Conference Hoechst, Schloss Reisenburg, April 21–22, 1972. Edited by H. G. VOGEL. With seven co-editors. International Congress Series, No. 264. 24.5×17 cm. Pp. viii+272, with many figures and some tables. Index. 1973. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. Price Dfl. 48.00.