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.