that 51 per cent. had developed some form of recurrence or extension; secondary or tertiary surgery was necessary in two-thirds of these to check the progress of the disease and maintain useful hand function. He concludes that surgery alone cannot be expected to produce routine cures.

Millesi, following unoperated patients with mild Dupuytren's contracture for from 6 to 12 years, found that 46.5 per cent. had developed evidence of further activity or extension. He suggests that the course of the disease is not significantly altered by non-surgical treatment by such agents as vitamin E, ultrasonics and radiotherapy, which give much the same proportion of patients whose disease is progressive. Surgery itself, by whatever method, would seem only to buy time for the patient. Against this are to be set the sometimes crippling complications of surgery (reviewed by Tubiana and Thomine).

The reader will find an interesting contribution by Thomine on the palmar fascia studied microscopically in early foetal hands and an important review by Gosset on the gross morbid anatomy of the contracture, but he will not find any review of the epidemiology of this condition, its associated

diseases, or any adequate study of its untreated natural history.
A. ST. J. DIXON.

Synovectomy and Arthroplasty in Rheumatoid Arthritis. (2nd International Symposium, January 27-29, 1967, Basel, Switzerland.) Edited by G. CHAPCHAL. 1967. Pp. 131, 66 figs. Thieme, Stuttgart.

The 2nd symposium held by the Orthopaedic Department of the University of Basel was devoted to the question of synovectomy and arthroplasty in rheumatoid arthritis. The collected short papers give a good idea of achievements to date in this increasingly important branch of rheumatology and orthopaedic surgery, together with problems which await solution, such as the need for further technical advances in various forms of arthroplasty and the exact value of synovectomy in preventing the progression of joint damage.

Contributions are of uneven standard but the small book is well produced and contains a useful if not lavish number of illustrations. It will form a serviceable source of reference for physicians and surgeons working in this field.
J. T. SCOTT.

HEBERDEN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT, 1967

At the Annual General Meeting held on November 17, 1967, the President, Dr. Oswald Savage, was in the chair.

The following new members were elected:

Ordinary Members (from Associate Members):

Dr. P. H. N. Wood, Dr. S. Mattingly, Dr. P. Holt, Dr. P. Boardman, Dr. A. K. Thould, Dr. J. Holborow, Dr. S. D. Roberts, Dr. D. A. Pitkeathly, Prof. C. H. Barnett, Dr. W. W. Buchanan, Dr. B. McConkey, Dr. D. L. Gardner, Dr. A. Myles.

Associate Members:

Dr. P. D. Fowler, Dr. W. M. Zinn, Dr. W. C. Walker, Dr. E. R. Bickerstaff, Dr. R. J. Francois, Dr. M. K. Jasani, Dr. A. W. T. Eade, Dr. Mary Corbett, Mr. G. P. Arden, Dr. C. G. Barnes, Dr. P. A. Bacon, Dr. U. Steiger, Dr. C. H. Lack, Dr. I. M. Roitt, Dr. N. Williamson, Dr. P. D. Byers.

Associate Members (Overseas):

Dr. L. Hall, Dr. M. I. Bruk, Dr. J. Forster.

Temporary Visitor Members:

Dr. J. M. Thompson, Dr. H. Little, Dr. T. M. Scott, Dr. M. Robertson.

The President recorded with regret the deaths of Dr. H. Gibson, a member since 1947, and also of Mr. R. Rendell who had acted as Honorary Auditor to the Society.

Activities

The first Clinical meeting of the year was held on March 17, 1967 at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. The meeting included a Symposium on the Physiology of Bone (*Annals*, 26, 565).

The Heberden Round was conducted by Dr. B. M. Ansell at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow, on June 17. A full report of the papers and demonstrations at this meeting begins on p. 282.