progressiva, osteopetrosis, Leri's pleonosteosis, Paget's disease of bone, and certain other genetic disorders of the osseous skeleton); The Future in the Study of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue; and General Summary and Conclusions. Alkaptonuria now represents a separate chapter, as does the recently recognized disorder, the nepotistinuria, which probably has been frequently mistaken for the Marfan Syndrome in the past.

The extensive use of photographs and illustrations should greatly help clinicians in becoming more familiar with these diseases, as well as promote their more ready recognition. The extensive list of references (through part of 1965) makes this work a very good source book for those desiring recent information as well as for readers with historical interest in earlier publications. The index now includes over 14 pages (increased three fold from the previous edition) and greatly facilitates the localization of contained information.

The author notes in the preface that the book is especially addressed to the general practitioner, the internist and pediatrician because these physicians probably are alone discussed. Many of the problems have been taken to his family background. All physicians could readily understand the descriptions and discussions, and thus profit from reading the book. The question might be reasonably raised as to whether the average clinician should spend his limited time studying these generally uncommon diseases. For this reason the book may well serve as a reference book and I know of no better source to consult regarding the inherited connective tissue disorders.

ROBERT S. SPARKEs, M.D.

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It has been pointed out that much of history is written by history's winners and their accounts are usually cheerful reading. Winners minimize the mistakes inevitable in human enterprises and allot credit instead of sharing the blame. Such a record is this account of Medical Service in the Mediterranean and Minor Theaters. One is duly impressed by the enormity of the problem; the widespread operations; the diseases encountered and other bits of factual information of major concern to administrators. But one looks in vain for any recommendations for a system change which will prevent the myriads of operational and preparational errors (or lack of preparation) from occurring again.

To those of us who spent our time in this theatre from the invasion of North Africa, through Sicily, Italy, Southern France and Germany, very few of the problems concerning the working doctor are even mentioned let alone discussed. Many of the problems had been pointed out in civilian publications from experience gained in the Spanish Civil War and yet when the U.S. entered the war the training manual TM 8-108 was dated March 1924.

In time of war, it is the civilian who becomes the military doctor who bears the brunt of the actual medical care. While this volume is intended to be a history of the administrative problems of the medical department, it is disappointing to find little in the book with reference to the direct problems of the doctor.

ROY COHN, M.D.

VIRUSES INDUCING CANCER—Implications for Therapy—Edited by Walter J. Burdette, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Surgery and Associate Director, M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, The University of Texas, Houston, Texas. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah. 1966. 496 pages, no price listed.

The implications of the possibility of a virus etiology of malignant disease in humans are so vast that intense interest is aroused on the basis of the demonstration of viruses as causative agents of neoplastic disease in animals. This book is based on a conference (unfortunately, the time and place are not stated) and contains the recent contributions of many of the most active virologists in the field of oncology, but does not include a discussion of chemotherapy or of surgery. As a consequence the language is largely that of the virologist. An adequate review is made of most subjects discussed. The implications for therapy stated in the subtitle are not for immediate application; however, physicians might obtain insight into developments of the future from reading selected chapters in this book. The surgeon might be interested in learning that preneoplastic lesions can be used to assay mammary tumors of mice. The immunologist and hematologist might consider the implications of the fact that congenitally infected chickens fail to develop antibodies to the avian leukosis viruses and consequently virus persists throughout the lifetime of the animal. Infection later in life, however, can be prevented by vaccination and serum treatment may modify the disease.

One of the more exciting discoveries in recent years has been that of Rubin who found that strains of Rous Sarcoma Virus are defective and will only produce mature virus particles with the aid of a helper virus. The resulting virus carries the protein coat, and consequently the antigenicity, of the specific helper. Melnick and Rapp have described hybrid infections with adenoviruses and a monkey virus (SV40) which also have profound implications on the use of live virus vaccines in man and the possibility of transmission of infections to human. The book is well reproduced. The discussion for the conference is placed at the end of the book and gives the reader an opportunity to "listen in" on some of the questions the experts have on their colleagues' work.

STEPHEN J. SELIGMAN, M.D.

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The 31 papers in this text were presented at an International Congress in February of 1965. Although already one year out of date, this text represents the most recent developments in a rapidly burgeoning field. Papers are divided into five chapters: (1) research on tumor-specific antigens, (2) histo-compatibility antigens, (3) multiple myeloma and amyloidosis, (4) immunopathology of various organs, (5) mechanisms of immune vasculitis. There are extensive bibliographies for each paper, as well as discussions of each chapter. Any scientist involved in any one of these five areas of immunopathology will find this text a valuable addition to his library. To the practicing clinician or medical student the chapters on immunopathology of various organs and mechanisms of immune vasculitis provide valuable insight into clinical problems.

There are excellent papers dealing with the distinctions between viral and tumor-specific antigens. As is a fault
of so many publications of the proceedings of International Congresses, not all the papers are of comparable quality. The great variety of topics covered necessitates that some of the topics are presented less extensively than others. Furthermore, six of the papers are in French, and some of the other translations are inaccurate. Nonetheless, the text represents the most recent work of the very best investigators in this field and is to be highly recommended. Indeed, all scientists active in the broad field of Immunology will find this text of value.

EUGENE V. BARNETT, M.D.

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**RADIOPHIC EXAMINATION IN BLUNT ABDOMINAL TRAUMA—**James J. McCort, M.D., Director of Radiology, Santa Clara County Hospital, San Jose, Calif.; Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology, Stanford University Medical School, Palo Alto, Calif. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1966. 252 pages, $10.50.

James McCort has produced a splendidly readable work on blunt abdominal trauma. His style is enviable spare and concise. A logical, orderly exposition of methods of radiographic study and general findings in hemorrhage and trauma is followed by separate chapters on lacerations of the spleen, liver, mesentery, intestinal tract, pancreas, diaphragm, kidney and ureter, bladder, urethra and retroperitoneal hemorrhage. The role of angiography is well shown, as are other special procedures. These include radioisotope scanning, pneumoperitoneum, and intraperitoneal instillation of diatrizoate. The publisher may share praise for top quality reproductions of the radiographs, which successfully depict some subtle changes of importance. The book should be of interest and value to general surgeons and urologists as well as radiologists.

ROBERT B. ENGLE, M.D.

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During the ten years immediately preceding this very large book on hernias of all types, the senior editors helped to develop and popularize the preperitoneal approach for groin hernias. Presumably it was as a result of their experiences with this relatively new surgical approach, that they were inspired to assemble the various contributors to the subject of hernia generally. The first 314 pages are devoted exclusively to groin hernia, and if there is a valid criticism of the entire work, it is in this section where the editors' bias is so apparent. The Bassini operation, for example, gets no attention other than passing mention, while the preperitoneal approach is lavishly praised. Despite chapters on the Halsted I, the Cooper's ligament repair, and other anterior approaches, Dr. Harkins summarizes the entire groin section by stating that "the conventional anterior approach to hernioplasty might even be compared to the birth deliveries of the Middle Ages performed under a modesty blanket." In view of other recent reports of a high recurrence rate in direct inguinal hernias by this approach, this reviewer is not at all certain that the more conventional anterior approaches deserve this criticism. On the other hand, the lengthy anatomical dissertation on the anatomy of the groin and the preperitoneal operation should inspire others, as it did the reviewer, to try the new approach. Not only is it a unique experience, but it almost certainly will prove to be a useful technique to all surgeons using it under certain circumstances.

Despite this criticism, the book is generally stimulating and informative. Drs. Nyhus and Harkins have assembled an extremely distinguished group of contributors, most of whom are widely known experts on the topics they write about. After each chapter there is an editorial comment, and other special comments by other authorities who stress certain points already made, or raise others pertinent to the subject. This particular manner of presentation, directed as it is toward experienced surgeons rather than medical students, only serves to make each chapter more interesting, and to the reviewer at least, enhances the value of the book considerably.

Other sections besides groin hernias include ventral hernia, diaphragmatic hernia, internal hernia, pelvic hernia, general aids to repair, and finally miscellaneous considerations. Literally no subject concerning hernia is too small to receive attention. There are chapters on sciatic hernia, Spigelian hernia, hernias in the young, hernias in the aged. The use of the various prosthetic materials including fascia lata grafts, nylon, tantalum, and marlex mesh are all thoroughly covered. Chapters entitled "Medico-legal aspects of hernia," "Industrial hernia," and "Anesthesia for hernia repair" illustrate the broad coverage accorded every aspect of hernia repair.

The just under 200 pages devoted to diaphragmatic hernia repair make that subject the second most thoroughly explored area in the book. All of the controversial aspects of the subject—the physiology of the so-called lower esophageal sphincter, the various approaches for repair, and the diverse operations including even gastropexy and fundoplication are covered.

The reviewer considers this entire volume an outstanding contribution to the surgical literature, and would recommend it to every surgeon performing hernia repairs.

FREDICK W. MARX, JR., M.D.

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The AMA's new health manual, Today's Health Guide, is neither an "old-fashioned" doctor's book nor a true encyclopedia. It is a gathering of selected topics, condensed from the enormous mass of knowledge about health which the editors and authors believe will be most useful to the average American.

Divided into 15 parts, it covers The Home as a Health Center, Health and Your Family, The Wonderful Human Body, Safeguarding Your Health, Mental and Emotional Health, Recreation and Relaxation, Safety, Medical Services for the Family, When You Need a Doctor, Dangerous and Disabling Diseases, Surgery Today, The Proper Use of Drugs, Physical Handicaps, Community Health, and Keeping Posted on medical history, progress and folk lore.

Such a book, which tries to be all things to all people, necessarily is limited in how much it can offer to anyone. Many of the chapters are written for doctor consumption and others in such fashion that doctors will understand them better than the public. All in all, however, it is a fine effort. There is good, sound advice on everything from Emergency First Aid to Home Nursing care, from sex education to calories.

Physicians will do well to follow the AMA's recommendation and keep a copy in their reception rooms, as well as urge their patients to buy it.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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