

### Nucleic Acids in Immunology

Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Institute of Microbiology of Rutgers, The State University. Edited by O. J. Plescia and W. Braun. Springer-Verlag 1968. Bound volume with cover; 16 × 24 cm; XVII + 724 pages; 195 black-and-white illustrations and 1 color plate. Price DM 88 (US \$ 22.00).

This book has the advantage, for immunologists, geneticists and allied scientists, of presenting the subject in the form of the proceedings of a Symposium. This means that papers on individual subjects are followed by discussions in which the representatives of the various branches of research express their opinions, doubts or hypotheses, thus often voicing several questions that the reader might otherwise find unanswered.

The subject itself is interesting for many scientists, and this book will probably remain a landmark on the road leading to the correct interpretation of many life processes involved in the metabolism of nucleic acids and in the mysterious steps that link antigens and haptens to immune responses (or non-responses).

Several chapters will be extremely useful for teachers at various levels, while the experiments reported in others will be valued by research personnel.

We advise potential readers not to rush too quickly through this book.

M. MILANI-COMPARETTI

### Handbook of Congenital Malformations

(Manuale delle Malformazioni Congenite)

Edito da A. Rubin. W. B. Saunders Co. London 1967. Volume di 16 × 24 cm; XIII + 398 pagine; 34 illustrazioni in bianco e nero; glossario; indice. Prezzo £ 5 19 s. (\$ 15.00 circa).

Il manuale è diviso in 14 capitoli in ciascuno dei quali sono trattate in maniera schematica, ma sufficiente, le malformazioni dei singoli sistemi o apparati nel seguente ordine: apparato digerente, mammella, sistema car-

diovascolare, sistema endocrino, sistema osteomuscolare, sistema nervoso, faccia e bocca, sistema respiratorio, occhio, orecchio, naso-faringe-laringe, pelle e unghie, sistema urogenitale.

Nei singoli capitoli le malformazioni vengono riportate in ordine alfabetico e sinteticamente trattate con uno schema comune che considera la frequenza di manifestazione, le alterazioni associate, l'ereditarietà e le possibilità di trattamento. Sono inoltre riportati i dati bibliografici essenziali.

Il 14° capitolo è suddiviso in due parti e tratta dell'eziologia, prendendo in considerazione nella prima parte gli agenti infettivi e nella seconda parte gli agenti fisico-chimici capaci di favorire l'evento malformativo.

Un brevissimo glossario completa il manuale.

G. DEL PORTO

### The Genetics of Dermal Ridges

By Sarah B. Holt (London). A monograph in the series "American Lectures in Living Chemistry" edited by I. N. Kugelmass. Charles C. Thomas. Springfield 1968. Bound volume with cover; 17 × 24 cm.; XVIII + 196 pages; 45 tables; 63 black-and-white illustrations. Price \$ 15.75.

Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in dermatoglyphics, mainly on the part of geneticists and clinicians.

Geneticists have tried to define the limits and the mechanism of the genetic information underlying their determination. The twin method has been widely used in so doing. Conversely, fingerprints having been shown to undergo almost complete (0.95-0.98) genetic conditioning, their analysis has also been applied to the diagnosis of zygosity in twins.

Findings of associations of dermatoglyphic peculiarities with different kinds of diseases, mainly malformations and chromosomal aberrations, have also widely interested both geneticists and clinicians—the latter being especially concerned because of the possibility of find-