natural "gap between West and East," and this gap has been artificially narrowed down to its present state primarily as a result of mutual exchange. I strongly suspect that it was the Japanese workers that first started to name the animals they studied and that there still is something different between the respective approaches of Western and Japanese researchers.

In closing, let me cite the following passages from the preface of Robert Hooke's *Micrographia* (1665) (*1*).

> It is the great prerogative of Mankind above other Creatures, that we are not only able to behold the works of Nature, or barely to sustein [sic] our lives by them, but we have also the power of considering, comparing, altering, assisting, and improving them to various uses. . . . And as at first, mankind fell by tasting of the forbidden Tree of Knowledge, so we, their Posterity, may be in part restor'd by the same way, not only by beholding and contemplating, but by tasing [sic] too those fruits of Natural knowledge, that were never yet forbidden.

This will help illustrate how deeply and positively modern scientific investigation of nature was rooted in Western thought and culture.

MASAO WATANABE
History of Science, University of Tokyo, Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153, Japan

References

1. R. Hooke, *Micrographia* (Dover, New York, 1938), preface.

Oncogene Theory

In reference to the oncogene theory of Huebner and Todaro, Thomas H. Maugh II (Research News, 22 Mar., p. 1181) states that ". . . it offers no normal role for the oncogene or the virogene."

The proponents of the oncogene theory have clearly suggested a role for the type C RNA genome in embryonic development (*1*). This possibility, as well as others, has been reiterated by Bryan (*2*).

DANIEL D. JONES
Information Systems Programs, General Electric Company, 1400 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209

References

1. R. J. Hueber *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **67**, 366 (1970).
2. W. R. Bryan, in *Cancer Medicine*, J. F. Holland and E. Frei, Eds. (Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1973).