Certain anatomical data are well worth reconsidering in this connection. Pouparts ligament (the inguinal ligament) in the living normal body is not at all the straight rigid structure seen in a dried bony pelvis, with its attached ligaments. On the contrary, it is a more or less movable curved structure. To a small but very important degree this curve can be flattened by the pull of the abdominal muscles attached directly or indirectly into it, or the curve made greater by the pull of the fascia lata. Cunningham says: "Pouparts ligament is attached internally to the spine of the pubis, and (2) through the medium of Gimbernat's ligament to the inner part of the ileo pectineal line. Poupart's ligament pursues an oblique course between the iliac and pubic attachments, and at the same time describes a gentle curve, the convexity of which is turned downwards. By its lower border it affords attachment to the fascia lata and when this is divided, it loses its curved direction." This curve would then, I say, be taken up by the pull of the abdominal muscles, especially the external and internal oblique and the transversalis.

Morris says: "The inguinal ligament is a strong band which extends along the distal margin of the aponeurosis (of the external oblique) from the anterior superior spine to the pubic tubercle, distally the fascia lata of the thigh is attached to it and internally the deeper abdominal muscles in part arise from it. Medially near the attachment of the ligament to the pubic tubercle (spine) diverging fibres are given off which pass to the pectin (crest) of the pubis and give rise to the triangular lacunar ligament (Gimbernat's ligament). This is fused with the fascia of the pectineus muscle and bounds the femoral ring. Above the inguinal ligament near its medial extremity lies the external opening of the inguinal canal. (The sub-cutaneous inguinal ring.) This opening is formed by the diverging of the lower medial fibres which composed the aponeurosis of the external oblique muscle. The superior fibres form the upper boundary, superior crus, of the ring and pass to the front of the symphysis pubis. The inferior fibres, inferior crus of the ring, pass to the public tubercle (spine), between these two fibre bands intercrural (intercolumnar) fibres arch about the lateral boundary of the ring and serve to strengthen the exterior and interior walls of the inguinal canal. From the inguinal ligament beneath and medial to the ring there arises a fibrous band, the reflected inguinal ligament (colles ligament triangular fascia) which passes medially and upwards behind the superior crus to become fused with the anterior layer of the sheath of the rectus fuscle." Thus it may readily be seen that the size of a hernial opening can be easily made larger or smaller according to the laxity of the abdominal muscles. This is