

noteworthy except that he exhibited some of those qualities which led him up to fame, more especially a curiosity to find out the cause of things, the unceasing development of which led him to be regarded as the pest of the neighbourhood. At the age of seventeen he went to Glasgow and worked for three years at the trade of a cabinet maker—no bad training for a man who was afterwards to follow such a practical employment as that of a surgeon. At the age of twenty, allured no doubt by his brother William's budding fame, he went to London where he began the study of anatomy and surgery. No one ever pursued the study of anatomy with more diligence than did John Hunter in his brother's dissecting room. Surgery he studied under Cheselden and Pott, the former at that time the leading surgeon in London, and perhaps caught from them that enthusiasm which is apt to be awakened by contact with great masters in any calling.

Hunter early became connected with St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but later attached himself to St. George's, holding his position there till the time of his death. His pupils at that institution included Abernethy, Cline and Astley Cooper, names that surgery will not willingly let die. During his connection with St. George's he regularly carried on his dissections and laid thus the foundation of the science of comparative anatomy, upon which such a splendid and substantial superstructure has since been raised. His enthusiasm in his work was unbounded. Some idea may be gained of his habits from the story told of him, that when a Mr. Leigh Thomas called upon him one night, Hunter made an appointment to meet him at five o'clock in the morning in his laboratory, and when that hour arrived Thomas found him already engaged in the dissection of insects. Clift, with whose name we are familiar, said of him that he did not

know when Hunter rested; when he left him at midnight it was with a lamp trimmed for further study, and with the usual appointment to meet him again at six in the morning.

Hunter cared little for the pecuniary rewards of his profession. He expended money lavishly to equip his laboratory and to extend his museum. He is said to have given £500 for the body of O'Brien the giant, whose skeleton 7 feet 7 inches in height, is a striking object in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. A biographer tells the following story with respect to this:—"O'Brien dreading dissection by Hunter, had shortly before his death arranged with several of his countrymen, that his corpse should be conveyed by them to the sea, and sunk in deep water; but his undertaker, who had entered into a pecuniary compact with the great anatomist, managed that while the escort was drinking at a certain stage on the march seawards, the coffin should be locked up in a barn. There some men he had concealed speedily substituted an equivalent weight of paving stones for the body, which was at night forwarded to Hunter, and by him taken in his carriage to Earl's court, and, to avoid risk of a discovery, immediately after suitable division boiled to obtain the bone." In our day, more especially in the larger cities, where the resurrectionists have reduced their business to a science, this would not be looked upon as a very great exploit, but in Hunter's day when resurrection was in its infancy, the incident showed the enthusiasm and determination with which he prosecuted his work.

A melancholy interest attaches to Hunter's death. He had long suffered from attacks of angina pectoris, which gave him at times great distress. One morning during his visit to the hospital, he got into a dispute with one of the managers; angry words followed, and he was seized with an attack of his