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Original Communications.

JOHN HUNTER.

Read at the Annual Meeting of the York County Medical Society at Fredericton, Sept. 22, 1893.

By W. C. CROCKETT, M. D., L.R.C.P. (Lon.)

It is universally admitted that John Hunter stands at the head of the British School of Surgery, and it is doubtful if his is not the most illustrious name in the long list of those who have labored in the field of surgical science in any quarter of the globe. One fact at all events the most grasping of European nations will readily I think, admit he was the most original, the most painstaking investigator the world has ever seen, while in the breadth and accuracy of his scientific attainments it is doubtful if he has ever been surpassed. It is fitting, then, that in this year, the centenary of his death, we should briefly survey

his life, and perhaps gain from a contemplation of it some reflections which may be a stimulus to us in our own professional work. In places like our own, with little to stimulate us to scientific investigation or enquiry, we are prone to fall into a careless routine, to rest content with the labors of others, to use other men's minds in the contemplation of cases that call for individual thought, and to rest easy and contented while things move smoothly along. I have often thought how different would be our practice, and how enthusiastic our lives, if we could but catch something of Hunter's spirit, and how much might be gained by humanity if we would but investigate our cases with but a portion of the precision which Hunter carried into every duty he undertook.

Hunter was born at Long Calderwood, near Glasgow, in 1728, the house in which he first saw the light being still visited by travellers to that vicinity. Here he spent the first seventeen years of his life, in which there appears to have been nothing