

had been reported that seemed to lend colour to the assumption that the flat chested man had at least this advantage to counterbalance his other defects. But we are prone to accept a plausible explanation of a doubtful theory, and carefully weighed evidence sometimes refuses to bear out what seems at first sight almost self evident.

The observations were made upon 500 young men of the student class, for the most part candidates for the athletic teams at McGill University, and as all the measurements have been taken by my own hand during the last six years, and without the intention of proving anything, the personal equation of error must be fairly constant. It is not so simple a matter to get correct and impartial measurements as would at first sight appear to one unaccustomed to such work. For the case with which figures may be made to bear false witness, one has only

12-3 in.



FIG. A.

to consult the results so temptingly shown on every magazine's advertising pages, or to check over the measurement card of one of the many physical culture systems with which every town is now amply provided. The measurements taken were seven in number.

1st. The depth of the thorax quiescent, at the nipple line measured by calipers.

2nd. The breadth of the thorax quiescent, muscles relaxed at the same level, measured from behind by a sliding caliper. The relation of these two measurements gives the thoracic index, the average being 7.60-11.19 or 68 per cent.

3rd. The girth of the chest in forced expiration above the nipple line.