

all these activities. Hunter, of all men, derived much happiness from his work.

Soon John fell into another strong man's hands. Cheselden was then in his glory at Chelsea Hospital. Over sixty years old, his fame was recognized on the Continent. He was a great lover of art, an intimate friend of Pope, the poet, and, as one might expect, also very fond of poetry. It is said of him that he was very kind and "notwithstanding the extensive practice he enjoyed, he always, before an operation, felt sick at the thought of the pain he was about to inflict." This was before the day of chloroform anesthesia. For two summers, then, John Hunter followed Cheselden at the hospital clinics, a great deal of minor surgery being entrusted to him. The old master, however, was afflicted with paralysis and died a year after, when his fame was at its zenith. Percival Pott, the other great man of London, was busy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and thither John Hunter went after Cheselden's death and was enrolled a surgeon's pupil. Here he walked the wards and assisted at great operations. In his young days, then, Hunter had the great advantage of coming closely into touch with such eminent and conservative surgeons as Cheselden and Pott.

In 1754 John entered as a surgeon's pupil at St. George's Hospital, where he was to serve humanity later for twenty-five years. Hunter's one aim, one hope in life was to become a great surgeon. His going, then, to St. George's started the foundation for such a career.

Only twenty-nine years old, the fortunate Hunter was travelling along a highroad that gave him magnificent views of the undiscovered, untilled fields. The future lay dimly before him—but Hunter cared little for the future. He worked and slaved in the living present. Everard Home has this to say of him, about this time: "It was not his intention to make dissections of particular animals, but to institute an inquiry into the various organisms by which the functions of life are performed, that he might thereby acquire some knowledge of general principles. This, I believe, had never been before attempted, or certainly had never been carried far into execution. So eagerly did Mr. Hunter attach himself to comparative anatomy that he sought by every means in his power the opportunity of prosecuting it with advantage. He applied to the Tower for the bodies of those who died there, and he made similar applications to the men who showed wild beasts. He purchased all rare animals which came in his way; and these, with such others as were presented to him by his friends, he entrusted to the showmen to keep till they died, the better to encourage them to assist in his labors."