

by the contraction of extra thoracic muscles, and the upward displacement of the abdominal viscera.

DR. MCKENZIE said in reply, that the question of the puerile type of chest was an exceedingly interesting one; it was for a long time considered that the consumptive chest was the flat chest, but he could not see why a round chest should be less liable to tuberculosis of the lungs than a flat one. The upward movement of the abdominal viscera in creating a high record for chest capacity was interesting, but it was merely a muscular feat, and was not of very much significance, except that it showed great co-ordination of muscles, which are not usually co-ordinated and much skill in the employment of them.

McGill Undergraduates Medical Society.

JOHN HUNTER—1728-1793.

BY

GORDON M. HUME.

John Hunter was born near Glasgow on the 13th of February, 1728, the youngest of ten children. Throughout his boyhood he was a great observer of nature, but was deficient in self-control, idle and ignorant. He hated school and school-books, nor did he see the good of learning even when at Oxford in the two months he spent there long after his boyhood was over. Years later when he was one of the first anatomists of his time, on being criticised for not understanding the dead languages he said; "I could teach them that on the dead body which they never knew in any language dead or living."

When Hunter was about 20 years of age, he went to London to study anatomy under his brother, William Hunter. He began as assistant in the dissecting room, and was given an arm to dissect. This he did so well that he was soon given more difficult dissections, and in 1749 owing to his wonderful powers as a dissector, he was made demonstrator of anatomy. For ten years he worked at human anatomy, during which time he made himself master of all that was then known, and also made considerable additions.

In 1751, through the influence of his brother he entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital as surgeon's pupil. Here he was allowed to watch grave operations by such great surgeons as Pott and Cheselden. In 1754 Hunter left St. Bartholomew's and went to St. George's Hospital with the object of getting an appointment on the staff. Two years later he was made house surgeon, but he only held this office for about five months.

Shortly after leaving St. George's, being threatened with consumption he contrived to combine change of climate with new opportunities