

(5) Chronic Gout, characterized by deposit of urate of soda in the soft structures about joints, with some bone absorption.

A very full discussion followed the reading of the paper, which was shared in by Drs. Garrow, Blackader, Adami, Gilday, England, Girwood and Perrigo.

McGill Undergraduates Medical Society.

FRANCOIS PETIT—1664-1741.

BY

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François Petit, known better under this name than that of Pourfour du Petit, was born in Paris on the twenty-fourth day of June, 1664. His parents, who were engaged in commerce, died during his childhood.

His studies caused him a great deal of application and trouble; he succeeded little on account of a poor memory. He had not only difficulty in learning but also in retaining what he learned. This difficulty grew less only when he was in his second year of philosophy. Descartes' Physics, which his professor taught him, pleased him greatly; he seemed born for that study, and he made it the principal object of his application during his whole life.

Desirous of increasing his knowledge in this branch, he began to travel as soon as his college course was finished; he travelled through a great part of the provinces of France and Flanders studying nature, and seeking out other students. One of these, to whom he became most attached and from whom he received the greatest part of his instruction, was M. Blondin of La Rochelle, who possessed a choice library, a garden of medicinal plants, and a cabinet of natural curiosities. This gentleman taught him anatomy, and ended by advising him to become a doctor. Petit followed his counsel, left for Montpellier towards the end of 1687, and entered there on the study of medicine under Chirac.

He took a course in Chemistry, and after receiving the degree of M.D. returned to Paris in 1690. He attended du Verney's lectures on anatomy, Tournefort's lectures on botany and Lemery's on chemistry. He soon obtained the esteem and friendship of these three great men. In 1691-1692 he passed in these studies, and also that of practical surgery, which he studied in the Charity Hospital. War having broken out in 1688, Petit presented himself for service in the hospitals of the French army; being accepted, he set out on 1st of April, 1693. He worked successively in the hospitals at Mons, Namur and Dinant, giving in all these proofs of his zeal, disinterestedness and capability.