

## **On the measurements of the heart / by John Reid.**

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ON THE

# MEASUREMENTS OF THE HEART.

By JOHN REID, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.,

CHANDOS PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ST ANDREWS.

*(Extracted from the Lond. and Edin. Monthly Journal for May 1843.)*

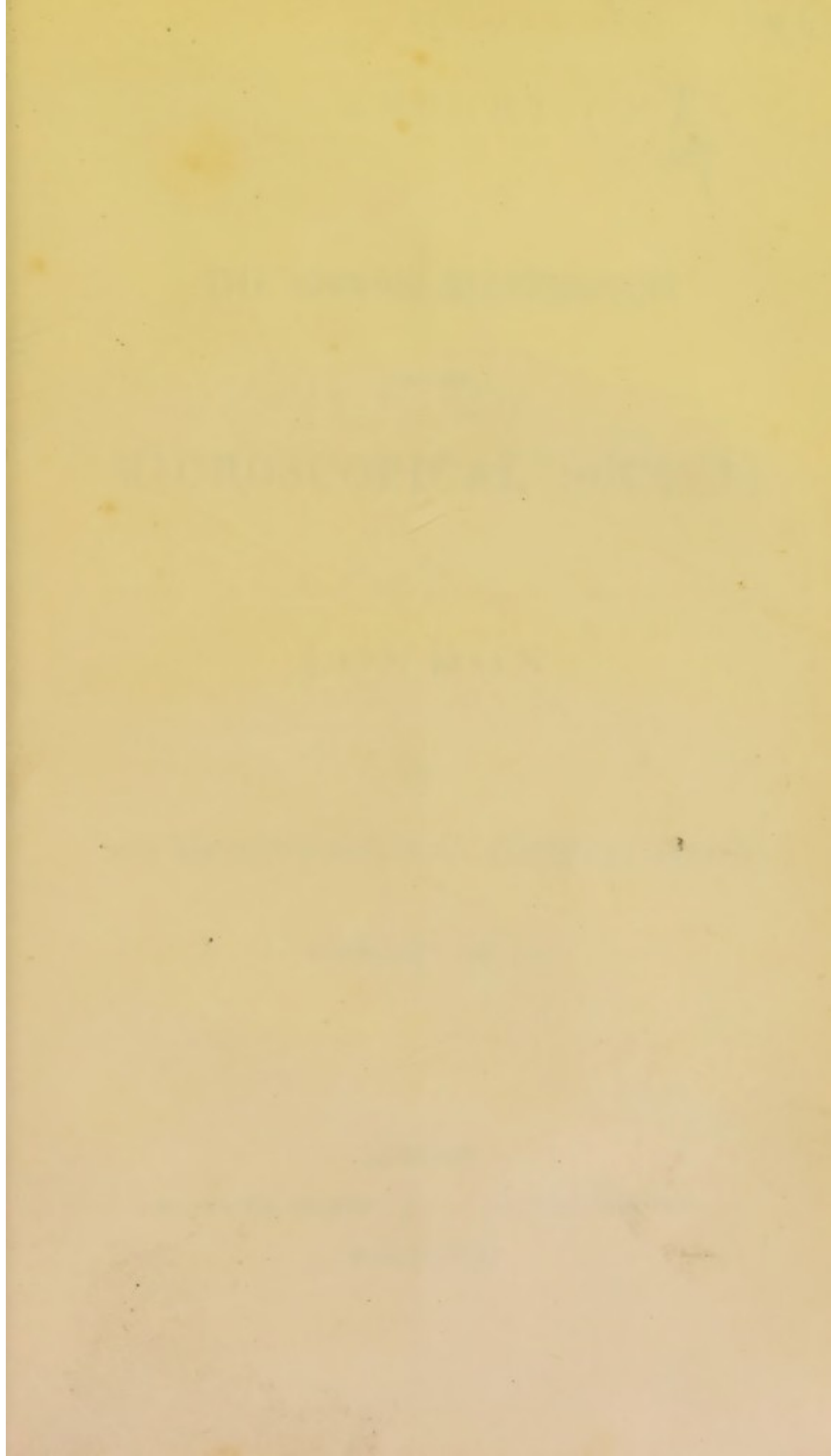
The average weight of the heart in the cases we have weighed that organ is greater than what we expected, after being acquainted with the results obtained by Dr Clendinning,<sup>1</sup> and others which we have elsewhere collected on this point.<sup>2</sup> I had intended to have taken the measurements of the different parts of a large number of hearts, both in the healthy and diseased states; but the number of healthy hearts weighed when I resigned my official situation in the Infirmary amounted only to 38. In taking the measurements of the length and breadth of the different cavities of the heart, it is impossible, as all those who have made the attempt must be aware, to be quite accurate to a line; for the edges or boundaries of the surfaces to be measured are not sufficiently sharp and defined to admit of this. The thickness of the walls of the ventricles can be more accurately measured by employing a pair of compasses, or some such instrument, to ascertain the exact thickness of the walls, independent of any inequalities arising from the manner in which they may be divided. The auriculo-ventricular and arterial orifices were first cut through, then spread out on a table, and the distance between the cut ends of the tendinous rings which surround these orifices was taken as the amount of their circumference. In measuring 16 adult male hearts between 9 and 13½

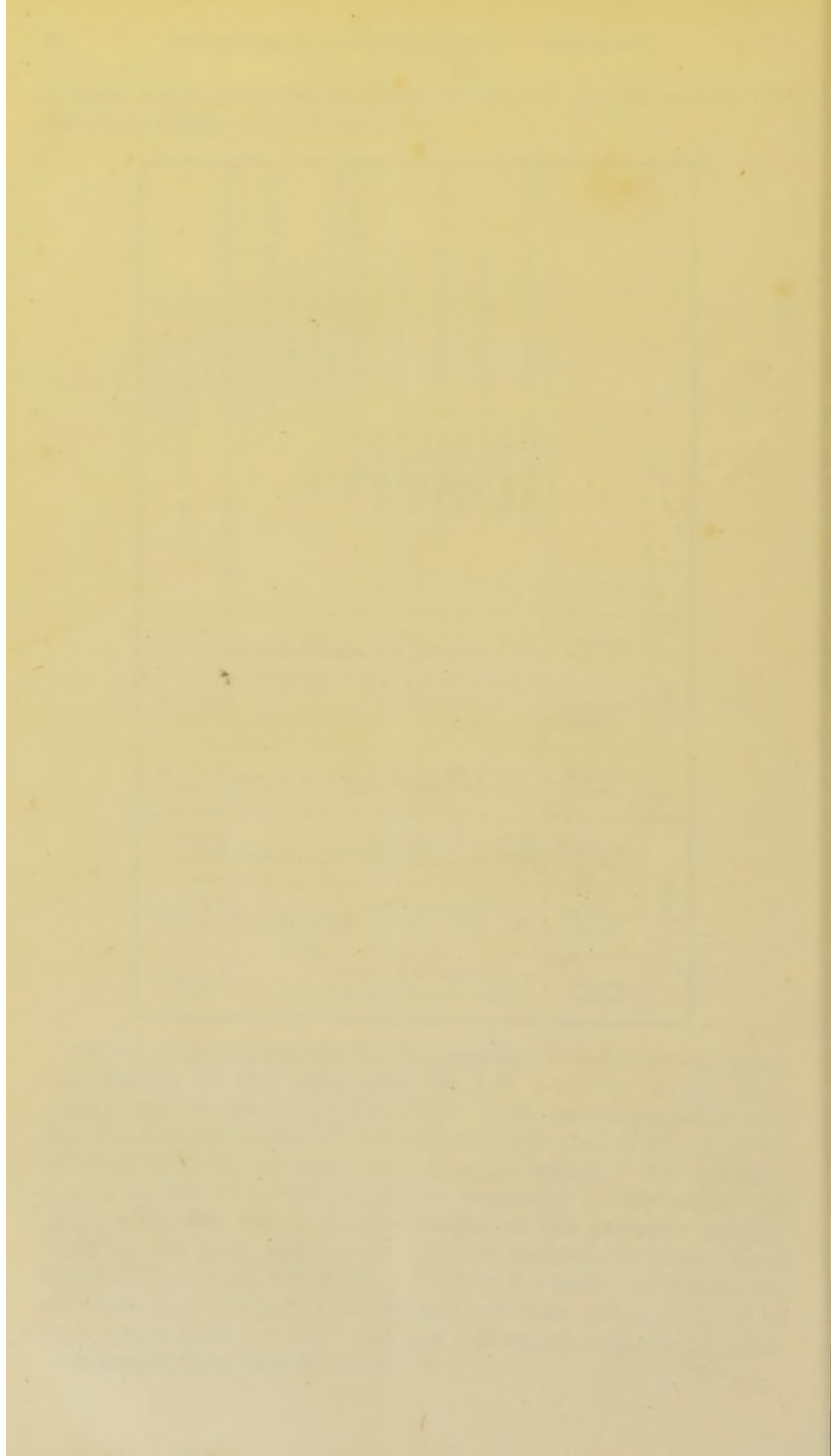
<sup>1</sup> Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, vol. xxi.

<sup>2</sup> Article "Heart," in Todd's Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, vol. ii.











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