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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,1 and others which we have elsewhere collected on this point.2 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 131

¹ Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, vol. xxi.

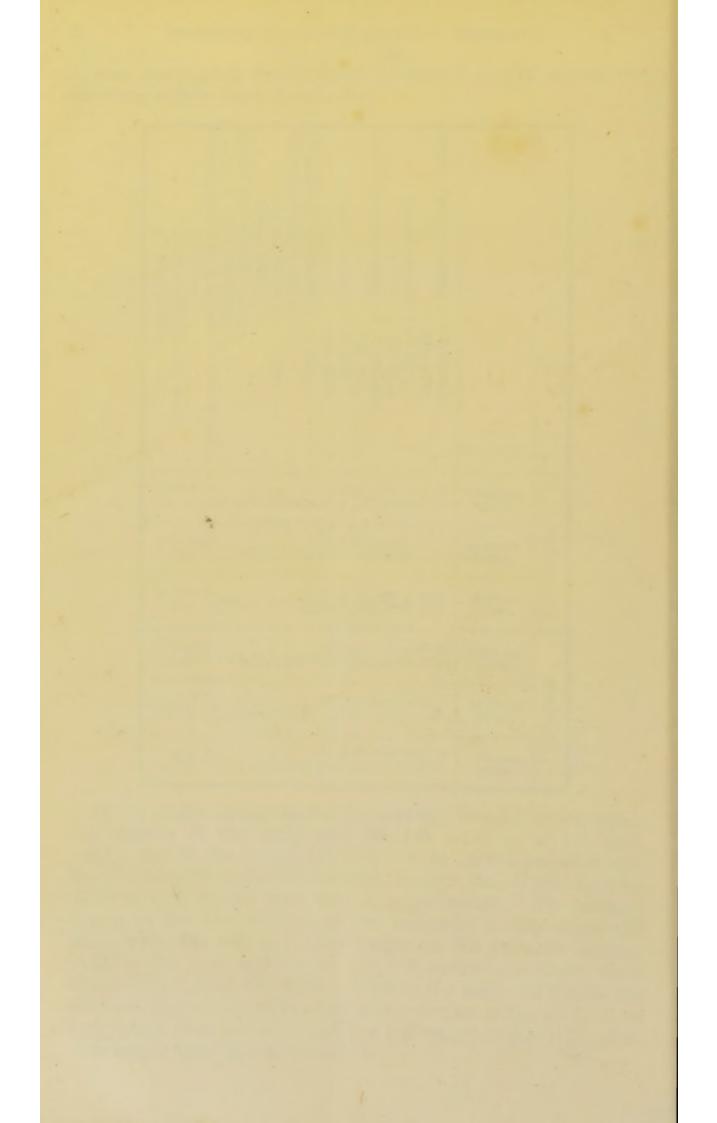
² Article "Heart," in Todd's Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, vol. ii.

ounces, and 9 adult female hearts between 7 and 12 ounces, the following results were obtained:—

	Length of anterior surface of left ventricle, right ditto, right ditto, right ditto, right ditto, right ditto, Breadth of anterior surface of left ventricle, right ditto, posterior surface of left ditto, right ditto, right ditto, Thickest part of walls of left ventricle, one inch above apex of ditto, Thickest part of right ventricle, of septum of heart, circumference of right auriculo-ventricular orifice, of left ditto, of orifice of pulmonary artery, of orifice of aorta,		
	4 4 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0	Minimum inches.	
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In the above measurements the average breadth of the anterior surface of the right over the left ventricle is $1\frac{4}{10}$ inch nearly, and in the female $1\frac{1}{10}$ inch; while on the posterior surface the breadth of the left ventricle exceeds that of the right by $\frac{9}{10}$ of an inch in the male, and $\frac{7}{10}$ in the female. The average length of the two surfaces of the ventricles is very nearly the same, while the left is slightly longer on the posterior surface. Both in the male and female the left ventricle is about three times thicker than the right. Both in the male and female the circumference of the right auriculo-ventricular orifice is $\frac{7}{10}$ of an inch longer than the left; and the pulmonary orifice is $\frac{5}{10}$ of an inch longer than that of the aorta.





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