Alexander Monro Secundus Encyclopedia Article

Alexander Monro Secundus

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Contents

Alexander Monro Secundus Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Alexander Monro Secundus.....3

Alexander Monro Secundus

1737-1817

Scottish physician and surgeon, called *secundus* to distinguish him from his father, Alexander Monro *primus* (1697-1767), and his son, Alexander Monro *tertius* (1773-1859). All three, in succession, were professors of anatomy at Edinburgh from 1720 to 1846. As teachers they contributed immeasurably toward making Edinburgh a major center of medical learning. *Secundus* is generally acknowledged as the keenest scientific mind of the three. In *Observations on the Structure and Functions of the Nervous System* (1783) he reported his discovery of the foramen interventriculare, an important passage in the brain.