THORAX-No. 15.

THE SUPERIOR APERTURE OF THE THORAX, AND STRUCTURES PASSING THROUGH IT, VIEWED FROM IN FRONT AND SLIGHTLY FROM ABOVE.

The superior aperture of the thorax is bounded by the first dorsal vertebra, the first costal arches, and the manubrium sterni.

The apices of the pleural membranes rise as high as to the neck of the first rib on each side. Between them is a narrow interval, in which numerous important structures are packed together.

The oesophagus lies at the back, and to the left side.

In front is the trachea, the innominate artery crossing in front of it behind the manubrium sterni, and the left innominate vein crossing in front of that.

The left subclavian artery is seen occupying the groove in the apex of the left lung.

The letters indicate—

A. The 7th cervical vertebra.

B. The 1st dorsal vertebra.

C. The 2nd dorsal vertebra.

The large 1 is placed on the first costal arch.

The figures indicate—

- 1. Apex of pleura, covering the lung.
- 2. Innominate veins.
- 3. Innominate artery.
- 4. Right subclavian artery.
- 5. Left common carotid artery.
- 6. Left subclavian artery.

- 7. Trachea.
- 8. Oesophagus.
- 9. Right vagus.

The left vagus is seen lying between the left common carotid and left subclavian arteries.





