

towering above all, was the intellectual figure of Johannus Müller, the Professor of Physiology. He was an original genius with daring, actually engaged in winnowing the wheat of demonstrable truth from the then prevailing chaff of egoistic opinion—to divorce a physical science from speculative philosophy. Prompted by the inspiration which he had derived in turn from Bichat and the French school, this professor of physiology was busily engaged in retesting in the laboratory truths previously elaborated by Haller, Whytt, Spalanzani, Cullen, Prochaska, John Hunter, the Bells, Magendie, Berzelius and Bichat himself. My fancy likes to dwell upon the almost dramatic moment when the shopkeeper's son from Schievelbein, the little keen-eyed, yellow haired stripling of nineteen, was ushered into the presence of this, the great founder of the modern school of physiology. There was in that meeting an intellectual impact that resulted in the transference and the perpetuation of great thoughts, great methods, which, perfected by the pupil, lead to still greater results. It was from this great professor that Virchow, during the next four years, was to derive those habits of investigation which, coupled with the spirit of daring, was to make him, in turn, the leading investigator in the realm of biological research. It must be remembered, however, that with all of the social and political disturbances, Germany was at that time thoroughly impregnated with a wholesome ferment. It consisted of the spirit of rational investigation, and was infused by Liebig in chemistry; by Humboldt, who was promulgating his discoveries leading to the publication, five years later, of his *Cosmos*; and by Froebel, who was establishing his marvellous principles of education derived from Pestalozzi, and which have since borne rich fruit the world over in every department of human instruction. It is not surprising, therefore, that with these antecedent influences, with these present surroundings, with these dominating forces, and with his marvellous insight and industry, Virchow should make such a record as a student, that upon his graduation he should be given the assistantship to the Prosector of the Charité Hospital. It was his first recognition, and it came with deserved promptitude. He was actuated at this time, as in his entire subsequent career, by the broadest principles of catholicity. During his student career, in addition to the prescribed lectures, he had gone into logic and psychology; in his busy, energetic way, he had mingled with the political organization among the students, and there were already manifest tendencies which, a very few years later, brought him before the German public as a scientist, a philologist and a social reformer, and a democrat. Promotion came without undue delay. Froeier resigned as Prosector in 1846, and