

their reach. And when, at a more recent time, some German scientists threw down the gauntlet by declaring, in brief, that it was a mistake to suppose that the great Newton possessed as much wisdom as Englishmen have claimed for him, Tait with characteristic combativeness accepted the challenge and defended most vigorously the cause of the Britons.

He has written many books all of which have contributed, in greater or less degree, to his fame as a scientist. But to be fully appreciated he must be heard as well as read. Then only is it possible to see something of the fire within—the enthusiasm which makes his whole word glow with life and the driest and most abstruse subjects seem full of interest. A brilliant lecturer, a superb teacher! Edinburgh, to-day has not his equal.

IN the heart of the busy German capital, a good half-mile along the Linden, if you enter that thoroughfare by way of the Brandenburg Gate, stands Berlin's great University. The main building, an historic though not an imposing looking structure, was formerly the palace of Prince Henry, brother of Frederick the Great. It stands back a little from the busy avenue, and there is a garden in front adorned with statues of the Humboldts.

It was near the entrance to this garden, one afternoon in early spring, that I caught my first glimpse of Helmholtz. "A handsome, a striking-looking man!" exclaimed my companion, a Yale student, who had attended the lectures of the great scientist the preceding year. A "handsome" man he is. Tall, well-formed, with a face cleanly shaven, save the iron-gray mustache, and a pair of remarkable, penetrating, steel-gray eyes, his whole bearing that of a gentleman of fine culture and distinguished rank, he can be seen often walking in the Dorotheen strasse, between his handsome home and the Institute of Physics over which he presides. It was in that home that he declined to receive Dr. Schwenniger, the physician of Bismarck, whom the great Chancellor insisted on making a professor despite the protests of Helmholtz and many of his colleagues. "A man such as you," said the great teacher to Schwenniger, "shall never receive an introduction to my wife." Helmholtz is naturally proud and conservative.

The University of Berlin, glorious as have been its eighty years of history, can boast of no prouder name than that of Helmholtz. It would be impossible to find a man more popular, one more loved and venerated. Day after day his great lecture-hall is crowded to the extreme limit. Not only are the thousand seats filled; men stand in the aisles, on the platforms, or in the halls leading to the room. Each morning as he enters for his lecture the students receive him with applause and they endeavour in a hundred ways to express the regard in which they hold him. One cannot call him an eloquent lecturer. He speaks