

give the objects for which this building has been erected, afterward a short sketch of the history of physiological chemistry, and finally to indicate what the plan and arrangements of the structure itself are. For hundreds of years have able physicians zealously interested themselves with the chemical investigation of the composition of the organs of the human body and its life-processes, the knowledge of which seemed of great value in determining the causes, course, and treatment of disease. Previous to the discovery of oxygen by Priestley and Scheele, and to the time when the penetrating Lavoisier, with experiments of previously unknown accuracy, gave chemistry a surer foundation, very little came out of this investigation. Especially such discoveries as that of the composition of water, of carbon dioxide, and of other important compounds of a simple kind, are to be noted in this connection. It would be wholly wrong to suppose that the brilliant discoveries of the last quarter of the eighteenth century were the results of this period alone; in fact, the way had been already prepared, and other important discoveries made. Among others, the numerous and valuable discoveries of Scheele, the accurate measurements and weighings of Lavoisier, and his proposed antiphlogistic theory, gave alike an invaluable foundation for the science of chemistry, and also a point of observation for its organization.

Already these beginnings of scientific chemistry had shown themselves fruitful for physiology. The investigations of Scheele, Lavoisier, and Van Ingen-Housz on the respiration of animals, sprouting seeds, green plants, etc., gave physiology a deep insight into the chemical relations of organisms to the surrounding atmosphere. Scientific chemistry and physiological chemistry have here alike a common origin. But, though by Scheele and many others, especially French chemists, many important substances of