

Virchow was elected to the succession. His work with Müller, however, had brought him in contact, not alone with that great man's scientific method, but with his habits of publicity as a scientific writer. *Archiv f Anatomie Physiologie u wissenschaft Medicin*, long issued by Müller, soon found an imitator in the Department of Pathology in the periodical issued jointly by Virchow and Reinhardt, and which, on the demise of the latter, Virchow continued to edit until his death. The political and economic conditions were fashioning themselves into the Revolution of 1848, when Virchow, already in influential touch with the Prussian Government, was delegated to investigate an epidemic of typhus fever which was then raging in Upper Silesia. The work was done with his characteristic thoroughness, transcending the prescribed limits of his instructions. He investigated not alone the pathological and clinical phases of the disease, but he entered freely into a discussion of the hygienic, economic and social conditions underlying the epidemic. He even went so far as to indicate a number of social reforms, essential to the prevention of such epidemic, and tintured his science with considerable democracy, his outspoken utterances, in these particulars, causing a distinct sensation in the ministry.

The trip to Silesia seems to have been a very important experience in Virchow's career. His previous tendencies as a reformer in the direction of popular liberty were now fully confirmed, and he became an active participant in the great revolutionary movement of that year. He unhesitatingly promulgated his platform as that of full and unrestricted Democracy, on which theme he made violent speeches to the Berlin populace, by whom he was elected a member of the National Assembly. His political ambitions, however, were destined to be temporarily curbed by the fact that he was under the parliamentary age, and was, consequently, not permitted to take his seat. His energy, however, found a compensatory outlet; for, with Leubuscher, he founded a journal which they called *Die medicinische Reform*, through which he advocated the establishment of a Ministry of Health, and insisted, among other measures, that medical education should be made free. These suggestions, not originating with the Government, were scarcely less distasteful to the Ministry than was his report from Silesia, or than were the political harangues which he continued to pronounce to the plaudits of his fellow burghers. He seemed at this time to be largely dominated by the spirit of iconoclasm, not, however, that form of iconoclasm which is merely an expression of the spirit of destruction, but that better iconoclasm by which old gods are destroyed that newer and better ones may be erected. He invaded the realm of