

drove home the lessons he had to teach, throughout what might be called the Sturm und Drang period of the *Archiv*.

In his leading article to the fiftieth volume, he indicates what the editors had to face and how they were received; I will quote a portion of it.

"It is difficult at present to realize the boldness with which two young and almost unknown men undertook by the publication of this journal to give a new direction to the science of Medicine. The market was apparently glutted with medical journals, and in Prussia especially a certain number of these bore an entirely official character. These journals appeared under the aegis of high state officials; they received official news, and were subvented in all sorts of ways. It was very far from the minds of the official world of that day to think scientific requirements necessary to ensure the circulation of the periodical press. The editors received so little support, they had so few contributors, and these so weak that they were compelled to print the feeblest and most tedious articles—indeed, articles that had no other merit than that they called the attention of the reader to the writer.

"The one requirement alone that contributions to the medical press should be original (*Arbeiten*) gave rise at that time to great astonishment. This was the day of so-called practical observation. The busy practical physician believed he had satisfied all claims if from time to time he cast a glance backward over his professional career so rich in experiences, and from it produced for the use and comfort of his colleagues and suffering humanity, a general abstract, in which he ordered and explained his co-called facts according to his favorite system. Autopsy reports were almost as great rareties as in the days of Schenk von Gravenberg (fifteenth century). Microscopic investigation there was none; even clinical histories were only written down from memory, or if they were drawn from the daily journal, it was apparent that, apart from the examination of the pulse, it was rarely a question of the systematic examination of the patient. Therapy moved in its old accustomed channels; venesection stood in the first place; the activity of drugs was esteemed as high as their classification into distinct groups was hard and fast; and people were so much the more contented with their successes, since the humoral pathology, believed in and preached by laity and profession alike in most beautiful harmony, easily explained failures and offered convenient excuses.

"It would certainly be interesting to picture the condition of official medicine as it existed scarcely 25 years ago (Virchow writes in 1870) for the instruction and warning of the medicine of the future. What I have said, however, will show that it seemed rather bold to declare war not only on the existing press, but also on the whole official medicine, in order to bring about