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THE ILL-HEALTH OF FRIEDERICH NIETZSCHE.

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"Es geht uns in diesen Dingen wie es uns im ganzen Leben geht: wir bringen es schon zur Erkennung eines Uebelstandes aber ist auch damit kein Finger gerührt ihn zu beseitigen." (Letter of Nietzsche, 1867, aged 23.)

"In my eyes I have a dynamometer of my entire condition." (Letter, 1888, aged 44, and just prior to his collapse.)

The amusingly unsuccessful attempts of Professor Möbius¹ to read his own preconceptions into the life, character and illness of Nietzsche, have no better illustration than that pertaining to ancestry and heredity. If "science" is capable of such unscience then may the sponge be drawn over the slate, and the whole supplanted with the single sentence of Nietzsche's sister that there was in Nietzsche's case a sound and healthy ancestry. Many pages have been written concerning Nietzsche's father, and the cause of his death, and Möbius has made it sure to his own satisfaction—certainly not to that of his readers—that there was glioma of the brain. The simple fact is that having previously been in every way normal in mind and body, a dog one day caused him to stumble and plunge down a stairway, severely injuring his face and head. Cerebral symptoms at once followed and he died eleven months after with symptoms of brain trouble and meningeal irritation. Young Nietzsche was then three years old. He was born in 1844.

There was strong complaint and criticism in later years of the wretched darkness of the rooms at home and at school in which the boy was compelled to study, and at the miserable oil lamp by which the family read, wrote, or worked, in the evenings.

In 1861 he had been a model boy at school but suddenly changed and became a somewhat careless scholar, the reason for which his sister could not explain; he was enthusiastic in roaming the woods, and in chopping wood. He complained very much about the conditions of his school-life, throwing

¹ Ueber das Pathologische bei Nietzsche, von Paul Julius Möbius, Wiesbaden, Bergmann, 1902.