

Du Bois-Reymond was keenly interested in history and philosophy, literature and art. Like Huxley, from whom he differed in most ways very markedly, he excelled as a lecturer, impressive even to those who disagreed, for his French elegance of style, his Celtic dramatic power, and his strongly developed historical sense were for the time irresistible. An evolutionist and a materialist of a refined sort, he did good service in ridding physiology of the cruder forms of Vitalism, though how far he touched the position of the subtler "Neo-vitalists" is a matter of opinion. In any case he showed the fallacy of the strongly engrained impression that science presumes to give more than proximate explanations of facts.

Although physiology may become experimental at almost every turn, the phrase "experimental physiology" **Experimental** may be used in a more restricted sense in **Physiology.** reference to experiments on living creatures. Whether we put caterpillars into a gilded box and watch for a change in the colour of the pupæ, or feed tadpoles with different kinds of food to show that nutritive changes affect sex, or extirpate the thyroid gland of a rabbit to see the effect on the constitution, or stimulate the nerve-centres on the brain of a chloroformed monkey, we are making experiments on living creatures. [It is here that the problem of the ethical limits of scientific inquiry is raised in many minds, but it should not be restricted to this issue.]

Though the experimental method was long ago resorted to by Harvey, it practically dates from the work of Magendie (1783-1855) and Claude Bernard (1813-1878). In illustration of its use we may refer to the work on internal secretions and on the nervous mechanism, both very characteristic of modern physiology.

This unattractive title expresses one of the most significant of recent advances in modern physiology. The study has to do with the action of various glands on the blood that passes through them, and its beginning dates from Claude Bernard's discovery of "the glycogenic function of the liver". While older physiologists had been more or

**The Study
of Internal
Secretions.**