

**A BIOGRAPHY OF
FRANÇOIS
MAGENDIE**

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A Biography of François Magendie by Percy M. Dawson

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PERCY M. DAWSON

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FRANÇOIS MAGENDIE, M.D.
1783-1855.

A BIOGRAPHY OF
FRANÇOIS MAGENDIE

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ALBERT T. HUNTINGTON

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and fifty copies have been
printed, of which this is

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To

WILLIAM H. HOWELL,
JOSEPH ERLANGER,
ERNEST G. MARTIN,
and
AUGUST E. GUENTHER,

my dear colleagues in the seminary, this
little book is affectionately dedicated.

PREFACE

IN the year nineteen hundred and four the members of the Seminary of the Department of Physiology at the Johns Hopkins University devoted themselves to the study of the lives of several celebrated physiologists. At that time I undertook to prepare a paper on the life and work of François Magendie. After revision, this paper was published in the *Medical Library and Historical Journal* (1906, iv, pp. 45-56, 198-206, 292-306, 364-377; 1907, v, pp. 24-33). As the result of a suggestion of Mr. Albert T. Huntington, the editor of this Journal, some new material has been added to the biography and the whole is now published in the present volume.

To write a really complete and satisfactory biography of Magendie, one should have read far more extensively in the literature of the time than I have done; but as it may never be my lot to take up this study again, I have thought it best to publish the work just as it is, in the hope that it may be of interest to the reader and afford a point of departure for the more elaborate researches of some future biographer.

It is an agreeable duty for me to acknowledge with thanks my indebtedness to Dr. Robert Fletcher, of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, for the loan of several books relating to Magendie; to Prof. Albert P. Brubaker, of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, for some very interesting data concerning Magendie's life (p. 10) and for the medallion portrait (facing p. 34); to Mr. Huntington for the portrait (*Frontispiece*) of Magendie, and for much valuable aid in the preparation of the bibliography (see Appendix); to Dr. Henry M. Hurd, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Miss Susan E. Coyle for many useful criticisms and suggestions.

PERCY M. DAWSON.

*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.,
October 19, 1907.*