Foreword

*P*aul Broca, born in 1824, participated in a most exciting chapter in history in general and in the history of science in particular. He was a near contemporary of Queen Victoria (born 1819), Lord Lister (born 1827), Herbert Spencer (born 1820), Cyrus Field and Walt Whitman (both born 1819), Louis Pasteur and Gregor Mendel (both born 1822), and R. Virchow and H. Helmholtz (both born 1821). Broca, in his many-sidedness and inventiveness, was hardly second to any of them. It seems almost incredible that this is the first scientific biography of Paul Broca in any language. Hospitable and friendly California seems destined to fill the gaps of French historiography of science. It was also in California that J. Olmsted a few decades ago wrote the first books on Magendie, Claude Bernard, and Brown-Séquard.

Broca's accomplishments in his short fifty-six years of life are almost immeasurable. Even non-historians know about his work in surgery on cancer and aneurysm; in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neuropathology on the speech center and the limbic lobe; in anthropology on the founding of the discipline in France and formation of its contents, methods, School, and Society. Yet more important perhaps than any single detail is Broca's role in the emergence of modern scientific medicine, so-called "laboratory medicine," around 1860. And Broca accomplished this in a country in which the finest medical traditions were not favorable and which was in danger of being outdistanced, not only politically but intellectually, by an awakening Germany! Just as Claude Bernard could and did see himself

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rightly as an equal to Helmholtz, Broca could and did feel the same way concerning Virchow, who, by the way, respected him highly. Both men show many common traits, including general biological orientation and strong interest in pathological microscopy, anthropology, and politics.

Francis Schiller—after many smaller contributions to the history of neurology—has with unequaled devotion, skill, and tenacity given us this portrait of a great and good man. He deserves our highest admiration and gratitude.

Zürich
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