

foremost place to the short memoir of F. Mohr entitled "On the Nature of Heat," which appeared in 1837 in an obscure scientific periodical published at Vienna. The publication of it remained unknown, even to the author himself, and was certainly unappreciated by the scientific world for more than thirty years.¹

11.
F. Mohr.

¹ The story of Mohr's memoir is curious, not to say romantic. His original paper, 'Ueber die Natur der Wärme,' was offered to Pogendorf and refused, as were the later memoirs of Mayer and Helmholtz. A dread of introducing speculative matter into the 'Annalen' prevented likewise—as I related above (p. 66, note 2)—the appreciation of much of Faraday's later work. He then sent the MS. to Baumgartner, in Vienna, who—always interested in theoretical physics—printed it in a periodical ('Zeitschrift für Physik') of which he and von Holger were joint-editors. He did not inform the author of this. Mohr was a remarkably original thinker, in whose mind important ideas rose at times to extraordinary clearness, but who, like many original thinkers, did not always appreciate his own ideas at their true value, and accordingly treated them with neglect, and did not consistently develop them. In the present instance he contented himself with inserting an abstract in the 'Annalen der Pharmacie' (vol. xxiv. p. 141), of which he was then joint-editor, together with Liebig and Merck. He made no further inquiries as to the fate of his larger memoir, and, in conversation with friends up to the year 1860, as also in his 'Mechanische Theorie der chemischen Affinität' (Braunschweig, 1868, p. 45), used to deplore the loss of a document which, more fully than the short paper in the 'Annalen der

Pharmacie,' would have established his priority in the clear enunciation of a remarkable principle which fifteen years later received general recognition. The matter would probably have rested there had it not been that Tyndall, in the year 1862, in a celebrated lecture before the Royal Institution, commenced that long series of historical and controversial publications in which many persons, including himself, Joule, Tait, Colding, Helmholtz, Akin, Bohn, Dühring, Zöllner, and others took part, and in which, among several claims prior to or contemporary with Mayer's, those also of Mohr received due recognition. It seems to have been especially Dr Akin who drew attention to Mohr's claims, and searched in the forgotten volumes of the Austrian periodical for the original memoir, which, unknown to the author himself, had been inscribed on p. 419 of the fifth volume. This discovery he announced to Mohr himself after having already, in November 1864 ('Phil. Mag.,' 4th series, vol. xxviii. p. 474), given several extracts, among which is the one quoted by me in the text. Mohr published, in 1869, a sequel to the above-mentioned book, entitled 'Allgemeine Theorie der Bewegung und Kraft,' in which he refers to Dr Akin's discovery, and reprints the original memoir in full. Since that time his name has figured in many historical accounts as one of the pioneers in the development of the energy-concep-