

indeed for the name, but for the modern science and direction of biology, was Xavier Bichat, who during the short period of his remarkable career (1771 to 1802) remodelled biological studies. He approached the subject from the side of medicine and in a philosophical spirit. In 1800 there appeared two treatises, one on the membranes and tissues, and another entitled "*Recherches physiologiques sur la vie et la mort.*" These by their titles already reveal the twofold aspect of biological science which drew the attention of Bichat and his school. First, the attempt to reform biological and medical knowledge by a close anatomical examination of organic tissues in their normal and diseased states, for the purpose of which he, within a very short time, examined six hundred corpses. The fuller account of his researches is given in the four volumes of the '*Anatomie Générale*' (1801) and in the posthumous five volumes of the '*Anatomie Descriptive*,' completed by some of his numerous pupils and followers after his death. In these works Bichat created the science of histology without resorting to the microscope, which was to do such good service in the hands of those who came after him, and without that application of physical and chemical principles which during his time (notably by Lavoisier and his school) had been applied with much success in the theory of animal combustion and in the foundation of another new science—that of organic chemistry. The reasons which inclined Bichat to distrust the microscope were the delusive nature of the revelations of the imperfect instruments then in use. They disappeared when, in the course of the next thirty