

the centre of the Leipzig school of Anatomy, Physiology, and Physics.<sup>1</sup> After having been among the first to import the exact methods of research into physiology, and having carried on a variety of investigations referring to physiological optics and acoustics,<sup>2</sup> he approached the subjective phenomena of sensation: recording, for example, with what degree of accuracy different parts of the surface of the skin on face, arm, leg, &c., perceive the distance between two points which touch the skin — say the two points of a pair of compasses; recording also the relation of the smallest increase of any given sensation to the corresponding increase of stimulus. In the latter series of experiments, he arrived at what has been termed<sup>3</sup> Weber's Psycho-physical law. He did not call it so himself; he simply showed by experiment that in a variety of cases the stimulus had to increase in proportion to its own initial intensity in order to produce a just perceptible increase of sensation. These experiments did not attract much attention till Gustav Theodor Fechner took them up, building upon them his celebrated "Principles of Psychophysics." Before referring more in detail to these, I must mention a third line of reasoning which, as stated above, had a considerable influence on the Leipzig school of Psycho-physics, though probably it had as little

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Fechner's  
Psycho-  
physics.

<sup>1</sup> On the labours of the brothers Weber, see the references given above, vol. i. p. 196, also the present volume, p. 31, note.

<sup>2</sup> E. H. Weber published in 1817, 'Anatomia comparata nervi sympathici;' in 1820, 'De aure et auditu hominis et animalium;' from 1827 onward, 'Annotationes

anatomicæ et physiologicæ,' in which, in 1831, there appeared his celebrated treatise "Tastsinn und Gemeingefühl." Joh. Müller's 'Vergleichende Anatomie des Gesichtsinnes' appeared in 1826.

<sup>3</sup> By Fechner in his 'Elemente der Psychophysik' (2 vols., Leipzig, 1860).