

the attention of philosophers to the existence of this relation in a variety of instances, and collected a large number of facts to prove its general correctness. He conceived the idea of measuring sensations by their accompanying stimuli, a mode of measurement based upon that relation which, under the name of Weber's law or formula, he introduced as a general psychophysical proposition. The intervals in the numerical scale, the differences in the magnitude of stars, the facts established by Weber relating to our estimate of differences of touch, of weight, and of temperature; lastly, the relation of "fortune physique" and "fortune morale," known to Euler and Lagrange, could all be utilised towards proving the general accuracy, within certain limits, of the psycho-physical formula. The work gave rise to many discussions¹ as to the meaning of the term quantity applied to psychical phenomena, as to methods of measurement, and as to the significance to be attached to the new branch of research

¹ In addition to the 'Elemente der Psychophysik' (1860), of which a second edition appeared in 1890, the author enlarged, discussed, and defended his special ideas and theories in three further publications. The year 1877 produced 'In Sachen der Psychophysik,' the year 1882 the 'Revision der Hauptpunkte der Psychophysik,' and shortly before his death (1887) there appeared, in the 'Philosophische Studien' of Prof. Wundt, his last contribution, "Ueber die psychischen Maasprincipien und das Webersche Gesetz," which Prof. Wundt declares to be "the clearest and most complete exposition of the problem which he gave in the course of the forty years during

which he was occupied with it." (See the obituary oration, reprinted in Kuntze's 'Biography,' p. 360.) The attacks on Fechner came from many quarters. In the polemical treatise of 1877 he notices how the views of his critics—Helmholtz, Aubert, Mach, Bernstein, Plateau, Delbœuf, Brentano, Hering, Langer—agree as little among themselves as with his own. He sums up with fine humour: "The tower of Babel was not finished, because the builders could not agree how to build it; my psycho-physical structure may remain standing, because the workmen cannot agree how to pull it down" ('In Sachen,' &c., p. 215).