

# LOUIS PASTEUR

BY

S. J. HOLMES, Ph.D.



Pasteur has probably done more to preserve human and animal life than any other single human being. Every one knows of his work on hydrophobia; but not so many know that our whole theory of contagious disease is founded on his researches and that there has not yet been an end to the work he started. This book sets forth, briefly, and simply the chief discoveries of this great investigator, and shows how his life was one of incessant labour and ultimate triumph.

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# LOUIS PASTEUR

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



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## PREFACE

THIS small volume has been written for students and general readers who may desire to know something of the life and work of Pasteur, but who hesitate to undertake the perusal of more comprehensive biographies. In the preparation of this sketch I have been greatly indebted to the incomparable *Life of Pasteur* by Vallery-Radot, and I hope that what I have written may induce many of my readers to make the acquaintance of this larger work. I owe much also to the valuable *History of a Mind* by Émile Duclaux who was for several years one of Pasteur's ablest co-workers and hence exceptionally qualified for the task which he has so well accomplished. Among other useful sources of information especial mention may be made of Roux's *L'Œuvre médicale de Pasteur*, which, like the preceding works, was written on the basis of intimate personal knowledge.

The present book is the product of a long-felt admiration for Pasteur and his achievements. I do not pretend to have made any new contributions

to Pasteur's biography. It has been my aim to set forth, briefly and simply, the chief discoveries of this great investigator, to describe his methods of critical experimental enquiry, and to show how he was led on, step by step, from one field of research to another, making discoveries of the highest importance in every field he traversed. I have endeavored also to give an idea of Pasteur's personality and its relation to his scientific work. So remarkable and inspiring a career as that of Pasteur cannot be too widely known, and I make no apology, therefore, for adding to the number of books upon this great man.

I am indebted to Dr. T. D. Beckwith of the Department of Bacteriology of the University of California for reading the whole manuscript, and to Dr. J. H. Hildebrand, Professor of Chemistry in the same institution, for reading the chapters which deal with Pasteur's chemical researches.

S. J. H.

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