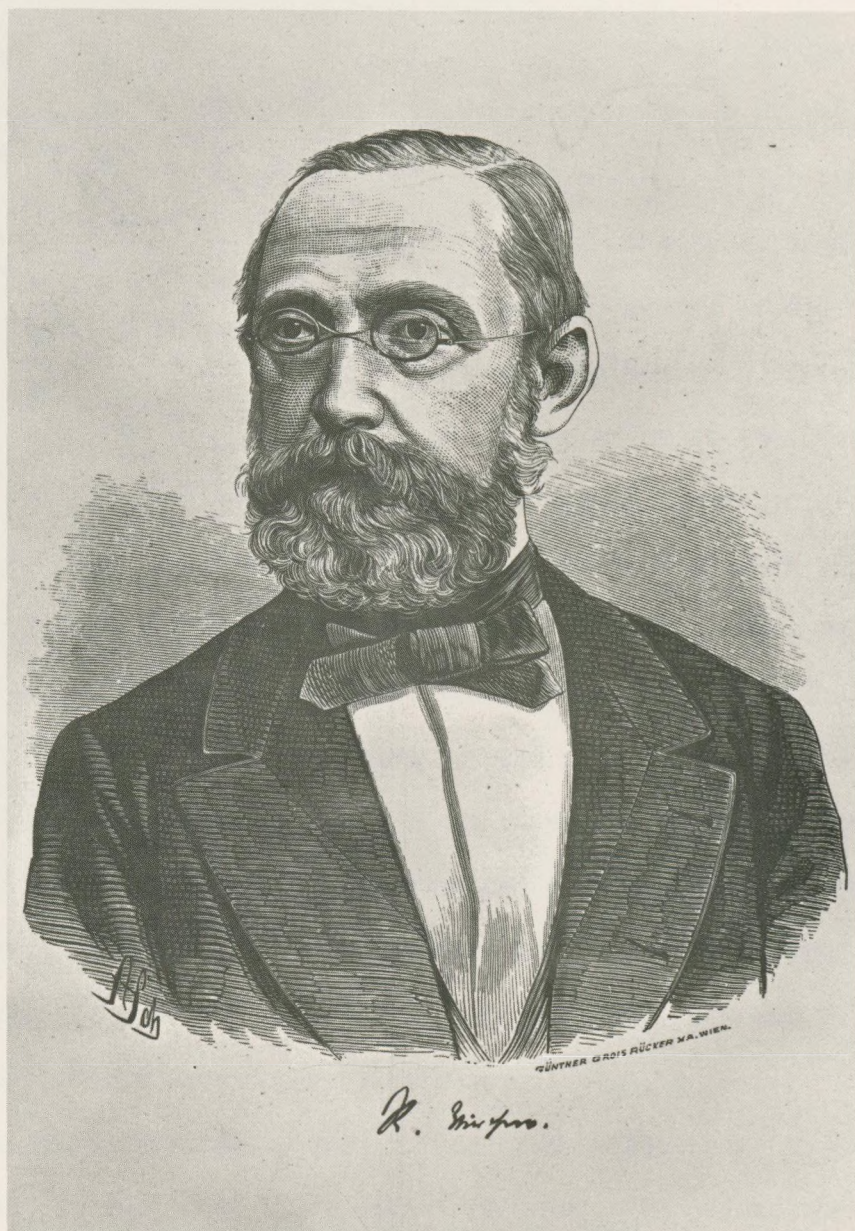


RUDOLF VIRCHOW (1821-1902)

The development of modern medicine is closely connected with the name of Rudolf Virchow, the founder of cellular pathology. He advanced the concepts that the cell, the unit structure of living tissues, reproduces other cells (omnis cellula e cellula), and that disease corresponds to the altered structure and function of cells. He was one of the founders of Archiv fuer pathologische Anatomie und Physiologie, later known as Virchow's Archiv. The Archiv, a highly regarded medical journal, provided an outlet for the theoretical and experimental studies on cellular pathology during the last half of the nineteenth century.

Educated in Berlin, Virchow served as prosector at the Charite Hospital and, in 1849, moved to Wurzburg to occupy the chair of pathological anatomy at the University. He returned to Berlin in 1856 to assume the directorship of the Pathological Institute. Virchow's name is associated with a number of significant discoveries in pathology and clinical medicine. He distinguished between pyemia and septicemia, and described leukemia as "white blood." He investigated trichinosis and mycotic infection of the lungs, studied the clinical features of "lupus tuberculosis," hematoma of the dura mater and leontiasis ossea. Several pathological concepts such as agenesis, heterotopia, ochronosis and embolism were first introduced by Virchow.

He was a man of wide interests, and soon became known as anatomist, pathologist, epidemiologist and social reformer. He joined the Prussian Lower house in 1862, and from 1880 to 1893 he served as a member of the Reichstag, defending faithfully the rights of the people. As he grew older, honors came to him from all directions, and as president of several scientific societies, he was the most influential medical personality in the Prussian capital in the late nineteenth century.



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