Jacob Wolff's *Die Lehre von der Krebskrankheit; von den ältesten Zeiten bis zur Gegenwart* is a permanent part of the monumental contribution of German scholars to the history of medicine. Four volumes were printed by Gustav Fischer, Jena, Germany, in 1907, 1911, 1913, and 1928, respectively, and the first volume was issued in the second edition in 1929.

The first volume deals particularly with the history of cancer and the early theories of its origin. The etiology of cancer is also the main topic of the second volume. The third volume is concerned with statistics, cancer of animals and plants, and nonsurgical treatment of cancer. The fourth volume deals with a more systematic presentation of the surgical methods of treatment for specific types of cancer. Each volume is illustrated and contains thousands of exact references.

Jacob Wolff was born in Strasbourg, at the time in Germany, on November 28, 1861, and was educated at the University of Berlin where he received his doctorate in 1888. His life in Berlin was devoted to private practice of medicine and to medical writing in the evenings. He held a staff appointment at the Polyklinik für Nervenkrankheiten and was a school physician. He was found dead of skull fracture in the courtyard of his home and office, at Lessingstrasse 32, Berlin, on September 12, 1938, a year following the suicide of his elder son. Three hundred pages of manuscript for the fifth volume of *Die Lehre von der Krebskrankheit* also perished.

Jacob Wolff's scholarly labor remains a useful historical reference for contemporary students of cancer.

The portrait and a historical note are modified from Cancer, 12: i–iii, January–February 1959.

M. B. S.