

*Jacques Loeb: His Science and Social Activism*

PREFACE

This book is short in length and limited in scope; it aims simply at explaining the role of one important scientist in society by focusing on his social activism and its philosophical foundations. Its method is primarily textual exegesis and it is Loeb's correspondence which is highlighted rather than his published writings and public speeches. Furthermore, it is his organizational actions and political opinions during the period from 1906 to his death in 1924 that is our primary focus since these were the years of his most intense activism. While he expressed opinions in his correspondence before this time, they concerned a more limited range of issues and actions and thus are less relevant to an understanding of the relationship between his activism and its philosophical foundations. Our concluding chapter pulls the foregoing themes together, relates them to still larger themes, and indicates how this enhances our understanding of the relationship between epistemology, political ideology and social activism.