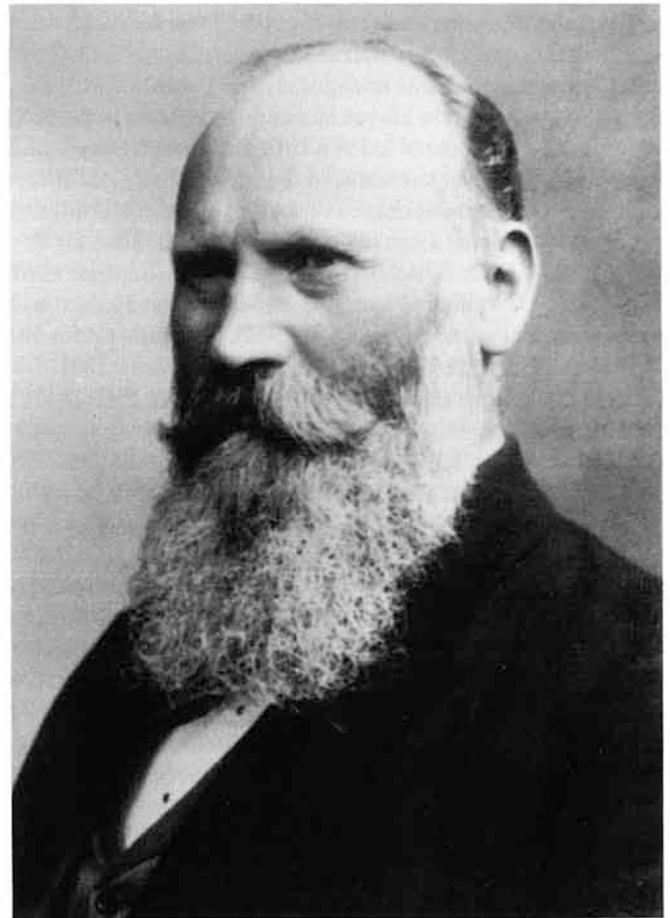


Centennial of Wilhelm Waldeyer's introduction of the term "chromosome"

A dramatic reminder of the enormous progress that has been made in genetics within the past century is the fact that the term "chromosome" was first introduced in 1888. This reflects how little was then known about this critical component of the cell, as outlined in the accompanying historical sketch.

We are consequently very happy that Doctors Thomas and Christoph Cremer agreed to prepare this outline of historical events surrounding Heinrich Wilhelm Gottfried von Waldeyer-Hartz's introduction of the term "chromosome."¹

Harold P. Klinger
August 1988



Wilhelm Waldeyer (6 October 1836–23 January 1921) in 1896. (Photograph courtesy of the Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, West Berlin.)

¹ My thanks to Marco Fraccaro (Pavia) for reminding me of this centennial and to Ulrich Wolf (Freiburg im Breisgau) for mediating the preparation of the accompanying outline.