



CARL WILHELM BOECK 1808–1875

Carl Wilhelm Boeck was born in Kongsberg and qualified as a physician in 1831. He was given an appointment at the University of Christiania in 1846 and in 1851 became Professor of Dermatology. He spent some time in England, Italy and Greece studying leprosy and its manifestations and, after his return to Norway, he collaborated with D. C. Danielssen for several years, participating in the two famous works: *Om Spedalskhed* and *Atlas Colorié de Spedalskhed*.

Boeck is also well known for his studies of syphilis and his book *Recherches sur la Syphilis*, published 1862, was a work of considerable significance. His particular approach to therapy, termed syphilization, however, attracted much opposition. In 1869 Boeck and Jonathan Hutchison, celebrated English surgeon, independently described the skin lesions of sarcoidosis. Professor Boeck had no further connection with this condition but his nephew Caesar Boeck later succeeded him to the chair of dermatology at Oslo and it is his name which is associated with the disease, it being known as Boeck's sarcoid.