

volumes, or if we recognise the fact that the more useful and popular publications of our day have abandoned the philosophical introductions and preliminary discourses¹ by which the earlier works preserved a semblance of unity and method, and are contented to be merely useful dictionaries of reference. The encyclopædic treatment of knowledge, the execution of Lord Bacon's scheme, has shown that the extension and application of learning leads to the disintegration, not to the unification, of knowledge and thought. A conviction of this sort is no doubt the reason why in German universities lectures on "Encyclopædie" have been abandoned.² They were very general and popular in the earlier years of the century, when, under the influence of Kant, Fichte, and

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kind useful—*viz.*, that it must be finished, however imperfect it may be, and that it must be completed within a limited time, on account of the revolutions and smaller changes in thought and knowledge. These essential conditions were always before the mind of Diderot. See his article "Encyclopédie," pp. 636-644.

¹ The object of the philosophical introductions has in course of this century been much more completely attained by such works as Mill's 'Logic' and Jevons's 'Principles of Science'; whilst the "preliminary dissertations," such as were contained in the older editions of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' have been partially superseded by works like Whewell's 'History' and his 'Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences,' in which the common origin, the genesis, the continuous development and interdependence of the different sciences, are traced. The value in this respect of an undertaking like that of the Royal Ba-

varian Academy ('Geschichte der Wissenschaften in Deutschland,' vol. i., 1864: it has now reached 22 vols., the science of War significantly filling three large volumes, that of Mathematics one small one) is much diminished by the title suggesting that science is a national, not a cosmopolitan or international concern. Fortunately many of the contributors to this important and highly useful publication have not limited their narratives to purely German science, but have largely taken notice of non-German research. Special reports on the state of any science or branch of science in a nation have, of course, quite a different meaning and value.

² The term is still in use for courses of lectures giving a general and comprehensive view of special sciences: thus, "Encyclopædie des Rechts, der Medicin, der Philologie, der Philosophie, der Theologie."