

intercourse between men of science was greatly promoted by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which held its first meeting at York in 1831. Associations and meetings of this kind had their origin ten years earlier in Germany through Oken;¹ but the line in which Germany has done most is the establishing of and continuing annual Reports² of the progress of the different

in Edinburgh ('Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh,' started in 1788), and somewhat later likewise in Dublin ('Transactions of the Royal Society of Dublin,' started 1799), and Manchester ('Memoirs of the Manchester Philosophical Society,' started in 1789). Many of the first scientific writers of the age published in these provincial papers or in separate pamphlets—the want of a common collecting centre being very obvious.

¹ Alexander v. Humboldt supported them, and was instrumental in giving to the Assembly at Berlin in 1828—which he called "The invasion of philosophers"—a special importance. It was, as he says, "a noble manifestation of scientific union in Germany; it presents the spectacle of a nation divided in politics and religion, revealing its nationality in the realm of intellectual progress."—Bruhns, 'Life of A. v. Humboldt,' vol. ii. p. 130. The British Association for the Advancement of Science was (as Prof. Owen informs us) at the outset avowedly organised after the Okenian model.—'Encyclopædia Britannica,' art. "Oken."

² The first reports aiming at giving a statement of the position of Science were those drawn up by Delambre and Cuvier at the request of the Emperor Napoleon I., and presented in the year 1808 under the title 'Discours sur les Progrès des Sciences, Lettres, et Arts depuis

1789 jusqu'à ce jour' (1808). They were imitated on a larger scale by the Emperor Napoleon III., on the occasion of the great Paris Exhibition 1867, and have been continued under the Republic. Of the report of 1808 Cuvier says, "Ce tableau historique nous servira désormais de point de départ et nos rapports annuels en seront autant de continuations." He also adds significantly, "Dans les relations actives où nous nous trouvons avec la plupart de ceux qui cultivent les sciences, il est bien difficile qu'ils se fassent en Europe quelques découvertes importantes sans que le bruit en retentisse promptement dans cette enceinte, et nous excite à des travaux qui s'y rapportent plus ou moins directement."

By far the most important work of reporting and summarising the results of scientific labour has been done by Germany. The first publication of this kind, however, originated with Berzelius, who from the year 1821 reported regularly to the Academy of Stockholm on the progress of the physical sciences. Of Berzelius's periodical Kopp says ('Geschichte der Chemie,' vol. i. p. 403), that it "summarises with the greatest completeness all that had been done in chemistry since 1820." This work, which regularly appeared in German translation, was continued in Liebig's 'Jahresbericht der Chemie' (1847). In Berlin the 'Physikalische Gesellschaft' has