

this epoch,<sup>1</sup> received an abundance of means, of which up to that time there was no idea in France, and which still form the finest ornament of the University."

Similar passages might be collected in which Cuvier enlarges on the influence of war and revolutions, of the Continental blockade and the isolation of the country; on the reconstruction of hospitals and the admission of medical science into the Academy; on the creation of new industries; on the development of the mining and mineral wealth of the country; on the scientific value of colonies and travels, and many other interesting topics. In confining myself more closely to the history of thought and the growth of the modern scientific spirit, I will make some reflections which his remarks force upon us.

I have noted above how France more than any other country worked for the popularisation of science, how her polite literature alone during the eighteenth century bears the strong impress of modern scientific ideas; no other country has a Fontenelle, a Voltaire, a Buffon. This peculiarity must be recognised as a very powerful and valuable stimulus to the growth of the scientific spirit. It emanates largely, if not exclusively, from the peculiar position of the old Academy of Science. It must, however, not be forgotten that it was not a popularisation of the kind we witness nowadays.

The class of literature which in our age spreads broadcast the discoveries or ideas of science; the endless number of magazines, reviews, and daily papers; the small treatises, the cheap primers, the compact text-books, did

<sup>1</sup> They were the three "Écoles de Santé" at Paris, Strasbourg, and Montpellier (see Hippeau, 'L'In-

struction publique en France,' vol. ii. p. 194).

32.  
France has done more than other countries to popularise science.

33.  
Difference between the literary and the national popularisation.