something different—*viz.*, the modern practical popularisation of science: it established its educational and its technical importance. Science was to be not an elegant amusement, or a refined luxury, nor even exclusively the serious occupation of the rare genius: it was to be the basis of a national instruction, and the foundation of the greatness and wealth of the nation. The Memoirs of the Academy were cleansed of all dangerous generalisations which might have brought them into touch with political controversy; the language was confined to the measured and concise statement of facts, or to theories capable of mathematical verification and treatment; conjectural matter was carefully excluded, and a standard of scientific excellence, both in matter and form, was raised, to which we still look up with admiration.[1] At the same time, this lofty and dignified spirit enlivened the courses

mal and diseased conditions. This organisation produced, during its short existence of only seven years, some memorable works; but its position was for various reasons secondary only: it was eclipsed by the European renown which the "Académie des Sciences" possessed, owing to its historical antecedents and its brilliant discoveries and the practical usefulness of its labours. But the idea of including ethical and political studies under the term "Science," due probably to Condorcet, was fixed by this organisation, and has in the course of the century acquired increasing influence. From these beginnings we shall have to study its career in another portion of the present work.

[1] According to Cuvier, "la langue naturelle de l'Académie des Sciences" is "la langue des chiffres" ('Éloges,' vol. i. p. 24); "l'Académie a toujours eu pour principe de ne se rendre qu'à des calculs ou à des expériences positives" (vol. iii. p. 12). Compare also 'Mém. de l'Institut,' vol. vii. p. 77, where he speaks of the method of Newton, showing how little the employment of a principle like that of "vital force" in physiology can be compared with that of gravitation, employed by Newton to explain the movement of the heavenly bodies; again, vol. viii. p. 139, where he refers to the great service rendered by the Academy, "s'il parvenait à diriger les esprits vers des recherches positives, mais longues et pénibles." And vol. ix. p. 61: "On aime toujours à voir se multiplier dans les sciences expérimentales les moyens simples d'arriver à la précision et de se rapprocher des sciences mathématiques," and other passages quoted above, p. 115 and p. 128. See also his remarks on the Philosophy of Nature, 'Rapport,' p. 335.