

CHAPTER III.

THE SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT IN ENGLAND.

1.
Scientific
organisation
abroad.

THE history of science in France and Germany during the first half of the present century is identical with the history of two great organisations, the Paris Institute and the German Universities. It is to them that we owe nearly all the great scientific work in the two countries: to the former we owe the foundation of the modern methods of scientific work during the last period of the eighteenth and the early years of the nineteenth century; to the latter we owe pre-eminently the diffusion and widespread application of those methods.¹ We now turn to the country which, in advance of France and Ger-

¹ In respect of this I cannot sufficiently recommend M. Maury's volume on 'L'ancienne Académie des Sciences,' which is as eloquent a testimonial to the scientific labours of eminent Frenchmen during the eighteenth century as the companion volume on 'L'ancienne Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres' is a proof of the absence of philological studies during that period. The recent publication of Lexis' work, 'Die deutschen Universitäten,' is just as eloquent a testimonial to the

labours of the German universities during this century. The first impression we get from the perusal of these two works is that for a long period France almost monopolised the exact sciences, just as later, for a similar period, Germany almost monopolised classical research, the science of antiquity. And yet the former was probably as much indebted to the Englishman Newton as the latter was to the Frenchman Joseph Scaliger for the character each acquired during the two periods I refer to.