

The universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Glasgow¹ are older than most of the German universities which have done the great scientific work of this century. So far as wealth is concerned, no institution on the Continent could compare with the two older English universities, and the Royal Society had in the beginning of this century long emerged from the poverty which characterised her early history during the lifetime of Newton.² Let us look at the subject from a

ophy, . . . and particularly of what hath been called the New Philosophy or Experimental Philosophy." It formed a branch at Oxford in 1649, and received a royal charter in 1662, four years before the "Académie des Sciences" at Paris—which had also previously existed as a private gathering of savants at the houses of Mersenne, Montmort, and Thévenot—was formally installed in the Bibliothèque du Roi. The "Accademia del Cimento" at Florence was established in 1657; but it only lasted ten years. Very irregular were also the life and labours of the "Academia naturæ Curiosorum" (later called A. Cæsarea Leopoldina), founded at Vienna in 1652. The Accademia del Cimento printed an important volume of Transactions in 1666. The Royal Society published its first volume in 1665. The first volume of the 'Journal des Savants' is of the same year. Very complete information will be found on all foreign Academies in the 'Grande Encyclopédie,' art. "Académie."

¹ Although the dates of the foundation of Oxford and Cambridge are uncertain, they were certainly more than a century—probably two centuries—older than Prague, the first German university, founded by the Emperor Charles IV. in 1347. The

older Scotch universities were founded in the course of the fifteenth century, about the same time that Leipsic appears to have had its origin through a secession from Prague. The German universities—Halle, Göttingen—which were the seat of modern erudition, have a much later date, as given in chap. ii. p. 159, above. Edinburgh was founded at the end of the sixteenth century, and Trinity College, Dublin, about the same time. Leyden, which exerted a great influence both on Scotch and German higher education during the seventeenth century, was somewhat older than Edinburgh.

² It appears from Weld ('History,' &c., vol. i. pp. 231, 241, 246, 316, 462, 473) that the financial position of the Royal Society was precarious, and frequently engaged the serious attention of the Council, during the whole first hundred years of its existence; that as late as 1740 the whole revenue of the Society was only £232 per annum. An effort was then made to get in the large arrears of subscriptions and other contributions. In the following year the income seems to have exceeded the expenditure by £297. Weld adds, "It is a painful task to record these periodical visitations of poverty, which threatened the very existence of the Royal Society;