

caise has been seriously discussed,¹ when the British Association has been copied abroad,² and when scientific men of eminence are joined in conference as to the advisability of founding a professorial university in London, in imitation of the great University of Berlin, it seems appropriate to recall the various ways and means by which, mainly in this century, the exact spirit of research, the mathematical method of investigating nature and reality, has been established and diffused.

France was the country in which the modern scientific methods of measurement, calculation, and classification were first practised on a large scale, reduced to a system, and employed for the investigation of the whole of nature. The Academy of Sciences, together with the High Schools of Science, the Natural History collections, and Medical Institutions, all in close connection, furnished an organization of the highest intelligences of the nation, by which

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¹ See Matthew Arnold's essay on 'The Literary Influence of Academies,' and Du Bois-Reymond, 'Uebereine Kaiserliche Akademie der deutschen Sprache,' 1874, reprinted in 'Reden, &c.,' Leipzig, 1886, vol. i. p. 141, &c. On the other side see Huxley in 'Critiques and Addresses,' ed. of 1890, p. 113, &c.

² The British Association, itself established somewhat on the model of the German "Naturforscher-Versammlung," founded by Oken and Humboldt (see *supra*, p. 238) in the year 1831, has become the model of the younger "Association française pour l'Avancement des Sciences," founded in 1872 under the presidency of Claude Bernard. It held its first public meeting at Bordeaux in 1874. In the opening addresses of the president, M. de Quatrefages, and the

secretary, M. Cornu, the elder sister in England is referred to. A characteristic passage in M. Quatrefages' address as regards the results achieved by the British Association is the following: "Grâce à elle une partie de la population a été transformée. Les fils de ces chasseurs de renards, qui, pour se délasser de leurs rudes passetemps, ne connaissaient que des joies également violentes et matérielles, sont aujourd'hui des botanistes, des géologues, des physiciens, des archéologues" ('Comptes Rendus,' 1ère session, p. 40). Following the resolutions carried in 1885, the French Association amalgamated in 1886 with the older "Association scientifique de France," founded by Leverrier in 1864. See 'Compte Rendu de la 16me Session,' vol. i. p. 1, &c.