http://geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1906-Merz-HistEurThot/README.htm

a systematic exploration of the heavens and the earth, the inanimate and the living world, could be undertaken. At the same time, the methods of measurement and calculation were submitted to closer study; new sciences were created by the application of these methods; and problems were attacked for the first time, with which, at the end of the century, the scientific world is still occupied. It was in France also that the discoveries of the laboratory were first applied so as to contribute to the revolution of arts and industries. In all its different expressions—in the production of works of classical perfection in substance and in form, in its application to the problems of life and society, and in its influence on general literature—we find the scientific spirit, as we know it, fully established in France in the beginning of the century. About three decades later we find this spirit domiciled in Germany, the study of the exact sciences having been gradually accepted at the German universities as an integral part of the university cycle. It there met the philosophical and classical spirit, which had organised the German university system and the teaching of the higher schools, and had revolutionised historical, especially philological, studies. What might have been wanting at times in French science, historical completeness and philosophical criticism, was added in Germany. Germany has in the course of this century not only become the country where the most faithful and exhaustive record is kept of the scientific labours of the whole world, but it has also become the country where mainly those problems have been attacked which lie on the borderland of natural science and philosophy, the problems of