**Term:** Science of Review  
**Quote:** We are now in condition to see that a sub-branch of science has been omitted. It is a department perfectly well recognized. It belongs by virtue of its purpose to the branch of theoretical science; and yet it varies that purpose. It is the subject of Humboldt's *Cosmos*, called by Comte *philosophie positive*, by Herbert Spencer, *synthetic philosophy*. Its object is to sum up the results of all the theoretical sciences and to study them as forming one system. I am somewhat inclined to call it *popular science*; but Spencer's adjective *synthetic* is better. It may be still more explicit to distinguish it as *reviewing science* from the first sub-branch of *advancing science*.


**References:** MS [R] 427:77

**Date of Quote:** 1902

**Editorial Annotations:** This quote is a variant of a passage published under the term *Retrospective Science* in the Commens Dictionary.

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-minute-logic-chapter-ii-prelogical-notions-section-i-classification-scienc-12