Note XIX

Leibniz to Joh. Christian Lange, Headmaster. Hanover, 5 June 1716 (Dutens, V, 404-5).

"...And so I wish that through the efforts of a few learned and well-disposed persons there might be composed an *Encyclopedic Work*, such as Alsted once attempted,[1] but which now must be completely reestablished on account of the immunerable things of the greatest importance that have happened since his time."

"...I have seen your *Logical Square*,[2] and it pleases me. In my youth I once conceived some things of this sort, so that consequences could be exhibited through the drawing of lines, or independently of syllogisms.[3] I even demonstrated that each of the four figures (for there are in fact that many) has six valid moods.[4] The entire doctrine of logical consequences is no less demonstrative than arithmetic and geometry; and I once proved this in many ways as a youth. And it is contained in this, so to speak, *universal algebra*. For common algebra is the theory of quantity in general, or indefinite number; but a certain true characteristic, so to speak, allows for analysis, which pertains to every accurate reasoning. And perhaps, if God grants me life, I will be able to give a sample of it one day."

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1 See Note XII.

2 Lange had just published his *Inventum Novum Quadrati logici*, which had no other merit than that it depicted the dichotomy of concepts (Venn, *Symbolic Logic*, 2nd ed., p. 509). It must therefore be a scheme analogous to the square that Leibniz had sketched in the unpublished fragment *Additions to the Specimen of the Universal Calculus* (LH IV 7B, 2, Bl. 21).

3 See Chap. 1, §§16 and 17.

4 See Chap. 1, §§1 and 4.