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Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Of the general nature and advantages of the study of the physical sciences -- pt. 2. Of the principles on which physical science relies for its successful prosecution, and the rules by which a systematic examination of nature should be conducted, with illustrations of their influence as exemplified in the history of its progress -- pt. 3. Of the subdivision of physics into distinct branches, and their mutual relations.
Sommario/riassunto	Originally published in 1830, this book can be called the first modern work in the philosophy of science, covering an extraordinary range of philosophical, methodological, and scientific subjects. "Herschel's book . . . brilliantly analyzes both the history and nature of science."-Keith Stewart Thomson, American Scientist