

The chief ones were : the competition of teaching orders such as the Dominicans, the Franciscans and the Jesuits ; her extreme conservatism which tolerated no other than that of Aristotle ; and the persecutions which she directed against her opponents. In the XVIIIth century she was an object of general contempt, the other Universities of France, having followed her steps, shared her fate.

The revolutionary storm swept them away with many other institutions of the past. By a decree of the *Convention* (20th March, 1794) they were all abolished.

Napoleon I. created, between 1806 and 1808, the *Université de France*. In his hands she was to be an *instrumentum regni*, like the restored Roman Catholic church. To this end, he decided that to the State alone belongs the right of teaching, and he placed all the departments of instruction (primary, secondary and superior) under the supervision of a *Grand Maître*.

II

The main features of the Napoleonic creation are preserved to the present time. To the Roman Catholic church, however, and to any qualified man liberty of teaching has been granted. But the State University alone can examine students and confer degrees.

The *Grand Maître*, now called Minister of Public Instruction, is assisted by a *Conseil Supérieur* (since 1873). The territory of France is divided into 17 *Académies*, presided over by a *Recteur*. The *Recteur* is assisted by a *Conseil Académique*. Every *Académie* possesses at least two Faculties (lettres et sciences), several academies possess four Faculties (lettres, sciences, droit, médecine); two of them (Paris and Toulouse) have, besides, a Protestant Faculty of Theology (Paris and Montauban). The Catholic faculties of Theology were suppressed a few years ago, their degrees being not required from the priests, while University degrees are obligatory for the pastors of the Reformed and Lutheran churches.

To the Faculties alone belong the power of conferring degrees (baccalauréat, licence, doctorat), the teaching of the Faculties of Arts (letters and sciences) correspond to a post graduate course in the best Universities of other lands, the professors—all appointed by the Minister of Public Instruction—deliver two series of lectures : one for the general public, free of charge ; the other, more thorough, for the students who prepare their *licence* and *doctorat*. The *Lycées* and *Collèges* provide the education required for the degrees of *Bachelier ès Lettres* and *Bachelier ès Sciences*. The curriculum includes classics, literature, modern languages, history, mathematics, physics, chemistry, natural sciences, and other branches ; about eight years of ten months each preceded by five or six years in a primary school are necessary to complete the course of study.

No student can enter any Faculty without the degree of *Bachelier ès Lettres* (for letters, law and theology), or that of *Bachelier ès Sciences* (for sciences and technical schools), or both degrees (for medicine). Then he may proceed to take the other degrees conferred by the different Faculties (licence, doctorat). Three years are required for the licence in Law, two or three years for

the same degree in Letters and Sciences ; five years for the degree of M.D. (no *licence*) ; four or five years for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. Examinations for the *licence* are very difficult ; some Faculties require also two printed theses,—one in Latin, the other in French.—One printed thesis is necessary to obtain the degree of B.D. As for the doctorate, the requirements vary according to the Faculties. All require at least one book in French denoting original researches, and some (Letters, Theology) require further a Latin thesis, both printed and publicly sustained before the Faculty.

Inspectors (*généraux et particuliers*) visit regularly the schools of all orders, and report to the Minister of public instruction.

It would be too long to speak of other educational establishments, such as the *Collège de France*, l'École Polytechnique, l'École Normale Supérieure, l'École des Ponts et Chaussées, l'École des Mines, l'École Navale. Most of them do not belong properly to the University ; they are connected with different Universities (war, commerce, public works, navy) ; as to the *free* Universities, only six Faculties have been opened since 1875 by the Roman Catholics, *i.e.*, four faculties of Law, one of Letters, one of Sciences.

III

The reader may see, from what precedes, that the word University has no longer in France the meaning which it had formerly. The *Université de France* designates public teaching in all the departments of instruction under the control of the State. Her organization being so different from that of other Universities, it is impossible to institute between them a comparison of any value.

Let me state, however, as a matter of information :—

1° That the French degrees of *Bachelier ès Lettres* and *Bachelier ès Sciences* include about the same branches as the ordinary B.A. of McGill, with more, history, more written exercises, more classics for the first and more sciences for the second.

2° That medical studies are preceded by a higher literary and scientific culture and terminated by original work, besides the usual examinations.

3° That the Faculties of Law are provided with a great number of chairs, and exact a higher standard of literary preparation.

4° That the professors are not overworked, having to deliver only from three to five lectures a week for seven or eight months.

5° That the fees, heavy in the Faculties of Law and Medicine, are nominal in the others (Letters, Sciences, Theology).

6° That many scholarships (*bourses*), obtained by competition, are offered to students who prepare themselves for professorial work.

7° That the great number of students has rendered competition (*concours*) unavoidable for the most humble position in the University.

8° That no Faculty ever grants any degree *Honoris causa*.

In conclusion, the University of France offers the