

Duchesne appears to have enjoyed a monopoly of the practise from Quebec to Three Rivers, for a period extending over several years.

The year 1621 is marked by the building of the Recollet Convent on the banks of the St. Charles, destined later to become the General Hospital of Quebec. In 1625 three followers of Loyola joined the colony.

The next important acquisition was the surgeon, Robert Giffard, who, with his family, arrived in 1627. He later became the first visiting surgeon to the Hotel Dieu; he was evidently the medical authority in the settlement and must have been a man of importance in his own country, since he was followed to Canada by over three hundred families from Perche and Normandy.

When, on the 19th July, 1628, the British, under Sir David Kirke, took Quebec, Champlain was conveyed to England, both Recollets and Jesuits were sent back to France, among other prisoners taken was Giffard. By the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, in 1632, Canada was restored to the French. That year the Jesuits returned, also Surgeon Giffard, and the following year saw Champlain return as Governor of the colony.

In 1634, Giffard was granted the Seignury of Beauport, where he built a substantial stone residence, which place, more than two hundred years later, became the Beauport Asylum.

Giffard, after playing an important rôle in the settlement of the colony, died in 1668. By 1635 Quebec was only a village, with a few houses. Eighty persons, including the clergy, constituted the population.

At this time the Letters, or "Relations" of Father Le Jeune, the Jesuit Superior, who had joined the colony with others of his order in 1632, were exciting wide-spread interest in France. They were passed from hand to hand in the Court, universally discussed in ecclesiastical circles, and the conversion of the savages had become a popular subject for prayers, devotions and fasts.

With the acumen which has ever characterized his order, Le Jeune saw far into the future. He wrote: "If we had a hospital here, all the sick people of the country and all the old people would be there. If a monastery like Dieppe were in New France, the charity of the Sisters would do more for the conversion of th savages than all our journeys and all our sermons."

In response to this appeal, the Duchesse d'Aiguillon, niece and heiress of Cardinal Richelieu, lady-in-waiting to Queen Marie de Médicis, resolved to establish a hospital in New France. The Duchesse and Richelieu together gave 22,000 livres for this purpose.

They obtained in 1637, from the Company of One Hundred Associates,