

The Doctorate and the Military Law.

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THE Board or *Chambre* has just discussed, not without warmth, and adopted a text already voted to the Senate, a text that modifies Article 24 of the law of the 15th July, 1889, which establishes the military obligations of students, candidates for a doctorate. As is well known, Article 24 requires that young men who are preparing for a doctorate in either medicine, pharmacy, or law should have obtained their degree of doctor at the age of twenty-six, under penalty of going, at this age, to finish under the flag the three years of military service, of which otherwise they would be subjected to only one year.

The house-surgeons of the hospitals, although not doctors, have, alone, the right to pass their twenty-sixth year without obtaining their doctorate, and the military law does not affect them until the end of their *internat*; but that is under this condition, that they should have been called before a faculty and in a city where there is a Faculty of Medicine.

Now, since the 31st July, 1893, a rule, of which the application commenced at the beginning of the present school year, requires young men who wish to devote themselves to the study of medicine to be holders of two bachelorships and, in addition, of a certificate testifying to the regular attendance of a course of lectures of a Faculty of Science for a year, this course being ended by an examination of which the certificate shall render account. The druggists must serve three years' apprenticeship in a laboratory added to three years of school with twelve terms. Now, it is generally believed that the twelve terms require four years. That makes seven years for the druggists, besides the year of military service. Thus if the young druggist leaves school at the age of nineteen he cannot, before twenty-seven years, arrive at his nomination of druggist of the first class.

The medical students are, perhaps, even more sure of being forced by the military law. The medical studies, according to M. Bronardel, demand seven years; the year of service added makes eight years. If the young aspiring doctor has not commenced at the age of eighteen or has not had the chance of being named as house-surgeon, he cannot escape the extra military service.

Such is the question. It was almost useless to repeat it, it having been already determined. Despite that they had, at the Board, a long discussion, sometimes picturesque; the Commission, represented