

of "combine" or partnership. Those entering into such a partnership "pooled all their possessions, furniture, provisions, roots, and peltry; all the products which they gathered from the ground, their instruments of surgery, their medicines, and lastly, all the revenue which they would obtain from their work and industry." It was further agreed that each of them would devote himself to the profit of the partnership as far as lay in his power, and that he would not run into debt (without the authority of his associates) exceeding the sum of five sous. At the end of four years the profits were equally divided. It was further stipulated that in the case of the death of a member before the expiration of this term, all the goods of the community would belong to the survivors.

An interesting physician of this period was Dr. Gauthier, who, as a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, had made many botanical observations in Canada. It was he who discovered the wintergreen plant, which to-day carries his name, and is known as the "Gaultheria Procumbens." Gauthier devoted himself also to the study of law under the tutorship of the Sieur Verrier, Procurator-General.

With the considerable increase of population, not only at Quebec, but also at Ville-Marie (Montreal), disease in various forms had become much more prevalent. Smallpox, especially, had spread to such a degree that it was necessary to provide some suitable place to care for and attend the unfortunate sick.

The Duchesse d'Aiguillon, finding such an unfortunate condition of affairs, decided to found a hospital, and sent from Dieppe a certain number of nuns. She received a grant of land in 1637, and established in 1639 the Hôtel Dieu at Quebec. Of the