

Joseph Pasteur, being a tanner and an old soldier of the Empire. He was a man of fair intelligence, of sound common sense, fully cognizant of the value of education, and who made every effort to secure to his son that education which had been denied himself. Shortly after the birth of Louis the family settled in Arbois, taking charge of a small tannery there, and here Pasteur attended the local college, passing through from the primary grades. The work done at this college would about correspond to our public and high school courses. According to the accounts of his fellow pupils Pasteur showed no exceptional brilliancy at school. He was but an average pupil, he worked carefully, even if slowly, and gradually mastered his subjects. He carried this careful conscientious system of study throughout his entire life, and it has often been remarked of him that he never affirmed anything of which he did not feel sure and was able to back up by careful reasoning. At school he showed a taste for portrait drawing, but this he did not afterward cultivate. At the age of sixteen he had mastered all that was then taught in the local college, and he went to Paris, but only stayed a few weeks, as he suffered so severely from homesickness that his father had to come and take him home. He then went to the college at Besancon, which was some forty miles away, where he could occasionally see his father, as it was the main market place for the tannery. There were some good teachers in Besancon then, and they awakened in him some enthusiasm for study, and especially for general science. In two years he had taken his "Bachelor es Lettres". The work required for this degree would not more than equal the first two years of our Arts course. His standing was only fair, but his careful conscientious work recommended him to the authorities, and he was retained as a preparatory master and given an opportunity to continue his science work. In his twentieth year he went up for his "Bachelor es Sciences" before the Dijon Faculty and secured it, but was marked "mediocre". His ambition at this time was to enter on the science side of the Ecole Normale, which was an institution at Paris for training professors. After a course of three or more years therein the government would appoint those passing the usual examination or "agregation" to various positions in the local colleges or provincial faculties. (In France, practically, the whole school system is under central government control and appointments to higher grade schools lie largely, or did in Pasteur's time, in the central government). Pasteur, then nearly twenty years of age, came to Paris to take the entrance examination at the