

## Foreign Hospitals

### THE PARIS MEDICAL SCHOOL

#### ITS HOSPITALS

#### THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM

#### POST-GRADUATE WORK

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WHAT are the clinical facilities offered for post graduate work in Paris, and what are the special features, if any, of the Paris Medical School? Such are the questions I have been asked to answer for the readers of the *Canadian Medical Journal*. The questions are timely, since travelling facilities are becoming normal in the Allied Countries, and Paris, as well as London and Edinburgh, offers ample and varied opportunities for practical post-graduate work. These lines will be supplementary to the excellent notes given in the January number of our *Journal* by Dr. G. R. D. Farmer and will bear on: A. The Hospitals and their staff. B. The Medical Curriculum. C. Post-Graduate work.

#### I.—Hospitals and Staffs

The 35 and more public hospitals of Paris all belong to the municipality, which is solely responsible for their upkeep as well as for the recruiting of their staffs. Let us recall the names of the most important of them, familiar to the student of medical history no less than to the visitor; the Hotel-Dieu and St. Louis, La Charité and La Pitie, Cochin and Broca, La Salpetriere and Necker, Baudelocque and Tarnier, Quinze-Vingt and Lariboisiere, etc. As for the staff—no appointment is made through influence or wire-pulling; exclusively by "concours." There are seven sections: medicine, surgery, obstetrics, neurology, oto-laryngology, ophthalmology and dentistry. The younger men chosen by the jury get the services of the outlying districts to begin with and it is up to them by their increasing reputation as well as maturing years to gradually work up to the better services in the centrally located hospitals. The system works well and brings to the front by natural selection the most capable men.

#### II.—The Medical Curriculum

Between 450 and 500 medical students register annually for their first year at Paris; the total of medical students, including men and women, French and foreign, numbering more than 5,000. To be allowed to register as a student the beginner must not only be a B.A., but must also have his degree in P.C.N. (Physics, Chemistry and Nat. Sci.) which requires one pre-medical year of preparatory sciences. The B.A. degree is no small matter, requiring 7 to 8 years of secondary education: no curtailed or overlapping studies are permitted. The medical curriculum requires a minimum of 5 years, which are crowned by the presentation of a thesis before a jury. From the very start, his first year, the French student is assigned to hospital work, and this is how the day's work is mapped out: 9 to 11.30: practical hospital work; 1.30 to 4 or 5: laboratory work; 4 to 6 or 7: theoretical lectures, attendance on which is optional.

The assistants in the different services are externes, internes and chefs de Clinique, under the direction of the Chef de Service or Professor. These positions are obtained only through competitive examinations: l'Externat being possibly obtained at the end of the second year. As for l'Internat, this position is most ardently coveted and competed for, as it carries with it lodgings and a small salary and is for five years; for the 60 to 75 yearly vacancies, some 250 to 300 candidates undergo the examinations which are both written and oral.

And so gradually as those chosen work their way up to Chef de Clinique and still higher, a Professorship is only attainable after years of preparation and selective competitions. To one conversant with the French training and medical literature and who has followed the bedside and amphitheatre teaching in Paris, it is no wonder, bearing in mind this long and practical training, that the French clinician is not only a master at exposition but also a capable research worker. To the clearness of conception he brings the talent of exposition, as Osler remarks, and as Wm. Mayo recently wrote: "that intuitive clarity of thought and facile mastery of technic which we associate, and rightly, with the French and Italian schools."

So the medical student in France attends the hospital from the very start and has thus an early opportunity of getting in contact with the patient. And all through his five years he will have to be in daily attendance in the hospital wards and laboratories from 9 to 11.30. His duties are similar to those of "clinical clerk" and "surgical dresser" in the London hospitals. This hospital and bedside coaching is very similar to that received in London and Edinburgh, where small group ward teaching has always been preferred. It stands in absolute contrast to the German method, which favours amphitheatre and large class teaching, unless one takes private lessons from a privat-docent. I never could understand how part of the medical world ever went mad in ecstatic admiration for "this distant and far away from the patient" German method.

### III.—Post-Graduate Work

As for this special line of study, Paris offers great and varied opportunities. We all know of the excellent original work which has been carried on in the services of the following professors, who are always glad to welcome new workers in their hospitals.

In *General Medicine*: Professor Chauffard teaches at St. Antoine, Vidal at Cochin, Gilbert at the Hotel-Dieu, Sergent at La Charité, Bernard at Laenec, Vaquez at La Pitié, Pierre-Marie at La Salpêtrière. In *Surgery*, there are Professor Hartman, Legueu, Delbet, Gosset, Duval, Sebleau, Marion, Cuneo, Heitz-Boyer, Rieffel, Lecene, Dujarrier, de Martel, etc. In *Gynecology*: Faure. In *Orthopedics*: Broca and Ombredane. In *Obstetrics*: Couleuvre, Bar, Potocki, Bouffe. In *Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology*: de Lapersonne, Lermoyez, Terrien, Rochon-Duvignau.

For the past year or so, the Faculty of Paris keeps open for citizens of the Allied Nations vacancies as "Internes" to be allocated to men recommended by their respective universities. The International University Bureau of Paris is the official agency through which such positions may be secured and the Canadian representative is Professor du Roure, of Montreal, working in connection with the French Consul, M. Naggiar.

In addition to these positions as "Internes" there are other facilities for advanced work in Paris. Every one knows that the Pasteur Institute under the present direction of Professor Calmette, offers twice a year an advanced and essentially practical course in Bacteriology; also

keeping open every department to those desirous of pursuing research work. Last summer I found there a large number of Japanese and Chinese men who had been engaged in research studies for some months. At *La Salpêtrière* with its 3,500 beds Professor Pierre-Marie, the earnest successor of Dejerine, will welcome any student desirous of improving his knowledge in Neuro-pathology. *St. Louis Hospital* with its 1,200 beds, is devoted specially to Skin and Syphilitic Diseases, and every morning the physicians in its outdoor department attend to 250 to 300 applicants. *The Necker Hospital and Terrace* is known to every G-U. specialist. To the *Obstetrician*, the clinics of Baudelocque and Tarnier and the services of Professor Couleuvre, Bar, Potocki and Bouffe offer unrivalled facilities for personal work; some 75 students from Edinburgh University are at present enrolled. In *Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology*, I would point to the services of Professor de Lapersonne, Terrien, Rochon-Duvignau, Luc, Abadie, Guisez. To those interested in special surgery, one will find a ready welcome by Professors Hartmann and Gosset (gastro-intestinal tube); Faure (gynecology); Legueu, Marion, Heitz-Boyer (G-U); Sebleau (goitre); de Martel (cranial); Broca and Ombredane (orthopedics); whilst Delbet, Duval, Cuneo, Proust, Tuffier and Pauchet, Lecene, Rieffel, Legars, Dujarrier and a host of others welcome the visitor, properly introduced, to their services of general surgery.

Moreover, at different times in the year there are given in the most important clinical services, series of special courses, essentially practical and consisting of clinical demonstrations and laboratory work by the whole staff of these professorial units.

May I mention some of them at random taking place this year:

#### *In Medicine*

*Professor Gilbert*, Hotel-Dieu, April.—A special course on recent medico-surgical ideas, on diseases of the liver and pancreas; July, 1 dem: gastro-intestinal tube; September, laboratory methods for general purposes.

*Professor Chauffard*, Hopital St. Antoine.—June, special course, 20 lessons, 150 frs, on diseases of liver, pancreas, gout and diabetes.

*Professor Vidal*, Hopital Cochin, June.—6 lessons on renal diseases; 4 lessons on liver diseases; 6 lessons on blood and serology.

*Professor Vaquez*, Hopital La Pitié, July.—

Special course on diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

*Professor Sergent*, Hopital La Charit', June and July.—I. Applied Therapeutics; II. "Cours de perfectionnement" on pulmonary tuberculosis.

#### *In Surgery*

*Professor Delbet*, Hopital Cochin, April.—Luxations and fractures.

*Professor Hartman*, Hotel-Dieu, July.—Surgery of gastro-intestinal tract.

*Professor Lejars*, Hopital St. Antoine, July.—General principles of surgery.

*Professor Broca and Renon*, Hopital des Enfants Malades, July.—Combined medical and surgical courses on tuberculosis.

*Professor Gosset*, La Salpetriere Hopital, June and July.—15 lessons: abdominal surgery.

*Professor Duval*, Hopital Vaugirard (new): 20 lessons on diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract, illustrated by operations. And the same will be followed in every department.

Suffice it to say that the Paris School has evolved a series of special courses—"Cours de Perfectionnement"—covering every department of medicine and surgery, which are given now in the spring and in September and October; in fact similar to the Ferien cursus we found in olden days in the German clinics. But for those familiar with the German and French methods through personal experience, these courses as given in Paris are superior to those in Germany. The clarity and facility of exposition, the abundance of material and the essentially practical side of these courses have made them very popular amongst French as well as foreign physicians. A few weeks visit to the Paris clinics in the spring and early summer is most fruitful. Nothing is so beneficial in our own medical field as to be cognizant of the advanced work of the important medical schools in Europe; and there are none better than the English and French schools.

It was my privilege, in attending the British Empire University Meeting in England, to visit anew the medical schools and hospitals of London and Edinburgh and of the leading provincial universities. Their organization is of the best and if some of them are striving for better, newer and larger quarters, let me say how we were impressed by the practical way in which the teaching was carried on and of its high order. International ways and methods seemed quite familiar to their leaders.

Let us signal out for our appreciation the interchange movement of medical ideas and methods between the Anglo-Scottish and French schools which is actually taking place. Only a few weeks ago 90 students (75 men and 16 women) from the Faculty of Edinburgh University were arriving in Paris for a special course in obstetrics. The men, divided in 2 groups, were in attendance every morning at Professor Coulevaire's clinic (Baudelocque) and Professor Bar's (Maternite Tarnier), whilst the women attended Professor Brindeau's service at La Pitié.

Still better, Professor Chauffard opened a series of 6 lectures to be given in London by leading men from Paris, whilst six of the most prominent London professors will lecture in the grand amphitheatre of the Faculty in Paris.

There is so much to be gained by such interchange of courtesies where science goes hand in hand with the amenities of life.