MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS.

ART. XII. *Account of the Hopital de la Pitié, Hopital de St. Antoine, Hopital Necker, Hopital Cochin, and Hopital Beaujon at Paris.* By ELISHA BARTLETT, M. D. of Lowell, Mass.

IN following the course which we have adopted, in treating of the medical institutions of Paris, in point of interest and importance to the American student, and perhaps generally, comes the Hopital de Pitié. This establishment within a few years has taken a high rank among its kindred institutions, in consequence of the exertions and achievements of its chief surgeon, LISFRANC.

The disorders and civil wars during the regency of Maria de Medicis, had increased so considerably the number of the poor, that the regular remedy was resorted to of imprisoning them. In consequence of this regulation, in 1612 the buildings at present occupied by La Pitié were appropriated by the magistrates for this prison, in which were shut up those of the poor who were arrested. In 1657, when the Hôpitalière was built, the houses of La Pitié were destined to another use. The children of the mendicants were placed there, and the two sexes each received an education proper for preparing them to live honestly and usefully. To these were added illegitimate children and orphans, who received a similar education. In 1809 the orphans were sent to the "Hospice du Faubourg St. Antoine," and La Pitié became an annex of the Hôtel Dieu, and was appropriated to the same diseases as that hospital. La Pitié now contains six hundred beds, distributed in twenty-three wards.

The visits at this hospital are made at the same hours as at the Hôtel Dieu and La Charité. After the morning visit, during part of the year, there are clinical lectures on surgery by Lisfranc, which are attended by a large number of students.

Whole number of beds, 600.

		Medicine.		Surgery.
Men	- - - - -	293	- - - - -	64
Women	- - - - -	207	- - - - -	36

Statistical Table from the Annual Report of 1822.

	MEN.			WOMEN.			Total General for 1822.	Total General for 1821.	General women sent by the police.
	Med.	Surg.	Total.	Med.	Surg.	Total.			
In the hospital, Jan. 1, 1822 - -	143	34	177	165	35	200	377	513	70
Admitted during the year - - -	2242	582	2824	1520	421	1941	4765	2993	
Dismissed - - -	1938	535	2473	1268	390	1658	4131	2651	70
Deaths - - -	307	28	335	273	25	298	633	408	
Remaining 31st Dec. 1822 - - -	140	53	193	144	41	185	378	447	
Rate of mortality, one for - - -	7.77	22.0		6.17	18.24				
Mean number of days in the hospital -	20	30		36	35				

The number of individuals affected with small-pox was one hundred and eighty four, of whom forty-eight died, and one hundred and thirty-six were cured, or in the hospital at the end of the year. In 1821, there were only nineteen cases, of which but two were fatal. The ages which gave the most diseases were from eighteen to thirty. The cures were gastric and putrid fevers, pulmonary catarrhs, paralysis, small-pox, fractures, contusions, abscesses, and ophthalmias. The deaths were from bilious fevers, enteritis, pneumonias, apoplexies, tubercular phthisis, small-pox, and diseases of the heart.

Surgery of La Pitié for the year 1822.

Trepan - - - -	1	Ligatures of veins of the legs	15
Cataracts - - - -	8	Fracture of clavicle - -	8
Empyema - - - -	1	_____ of humerus, (neck) -	3
Paracentesis abdominis - -	80	_____ of humerus, (body) -	9
Hydrocele - - - -	8	_____ of bones of fore-arm -	6
Lithotomy - - - -	1	_____ of ribs - - - -	8
Fistula in ano - - - -	6	_____ of thigh, (neck of bone)	12
Extirpation of cancerous tumours	12	_____ of thigh, (body of bone)	6
Amputation of thigh - - -	3	_____ of leg - - - -	4
_____ of leg - - - -	5	_____ of leg, (compound) -	6
_____ of toes - - - -	6	_____ of patella - - - -	2
_____ of thumb - - - -	1	Luxation of humerus - - -	4
Resection of bones of metatarsus	2		

It has already been observed that this hospital has, within a few years, become one of much interest to the medical inquirer, on account of the lectures and practice of M. Lisfranc. This gentleman may certainly be ranked among the most distinguished surgeons of Paris. The success of his amputations of the neck of the uterus in cases of disease of that organ, is well known in this country. In his practice he is one of the most thorough-going of the Broussaisists. 1

have known him in a fracture of the spine, of two months standing, with paralysis of the lower extremities, bladder, and rectum, commence the treatment by bleeding on the first day twelve ounces, second day ten, third day eight, thus gradually diminishing the daily bleedings down to two ounces. During this time an immense number of leeches were applied along the spine; say two or three hundred in the course of seven or eight days. After an interval of three or four days, he recommenced the bleedings, gradually diminishing them as before. At the expiration of this time, "C'est bien remarkable!" exclaimed the surgeon, as the patient began to use his legs, and the rectum and bladder were resuming their functions. Nothing is more common than to hear him prescribe seventy or eighty leeches daily, for a scrofulous inflammation of a joint.

There are greater facilities for the study of anatomy and surgery connected with this hospital than with any other in Paris. The two principal places for dissection are at the Pavilions connected with the school of medicine at the Ecole Pratique, and at La Pitié. Perhaps there is little choice between the two, though there are some advantages at La Pitié, for an American student who spends but a limited time in Paris. The distribution of subjects is made every day at noon in the following order. The in-dressers of the hospitals have the privilege of the first choice, the out-dressers the second, and the remaining subjects are distributed among the miscellaneous students, in the order in which their names are inscribed on the distribution book. The price is fixed by the administration of the hospitals, and is moderate.

In addition to the public establishments just spoken of, there are several private teachers of anatomy, with whom a considerable number of American and English students in Paris pursue their dissections. These gentlemen take upon themselves the trouble of providing subjects, preparing them, and furnishing rooms, tables, &c. It is somewhat more expensive to dissect under the direction of one of these private teachers; but the advantages particularly to a student who has but little time in Paris, are more than sufficient to overbalance the additional cost. One is thus rid of the trouble of procuring subjects, and removed from the noise and confusion of the public rooms. The writer dissected with Mr. FISHER, an Englishman, who has a room at La Pitié, and a class composed principally of American and English students. M. AMUSAT has also a similar establishment where dissections can be pursued a great part of the year. His terms are considerably higher.

Among other advantages connected with La Pitié, are Lisfranc's

lectures on operative surgery. The professor first gives a lecture on the operation, then performs it on the subject, and during the course, which continues about three months, each of the students does all the operations twice, which can be performed on the dead subject, under the direction of Lisfranc or some one of his assistants.

Lisfranc, as a lecturer and a man, has less of the French polish than any other public character whom an American student meets in the course of his studies at Paris. He has a goodly share of impudence, bravado and vulgarity, but in connexion with these unamiable qualities, there is a redeeming fund of wit and good humour, a high and aspiring ambition, an ardent devotion to the science and the art, which he has so much embellished and improved, and a minute and accurate knowledge of anatomy, rendering him a proud and successful rival of the first operators of the French metropolis. In the edition of Sabatier's *Médecine Opératoire*, published by Sanson and Begin, many of Lisfranc's methods of operating are detailed; but in noticing these in his lectures, he usually gets in a passion, says the accounts are travestied, calls Breschet a gross beast, a broken pot, &c. He treats with ridicule the vague and indefinite directions generally given in books of operative surgery, and insists with much emphasis on the necessity of reducing these rules as far as possible, to mathematical precision. He says operators consist of three classes—first, *the man of the world*; second, *the amateur*; and third, *the artist*. He mimics, in a very amusing manner, the style of operating by the two first, and then shows how the artist would use the instrument, and consequently how an operation should always be performed. All the time of my attendance at La Pitié, Lisfranc was promising from month to month a system of operative surgery, which was then stated to be in press.

Of the seven hospitals of Paris devoted to the ordinary diseases of adults, we have already noticed the three most important, viz. the Hôtel Dieu, La Charité, and La Pitié. We shall here briefly speak of the remaining four, leaving the consideration of those hospitals, destined for the reception and treatment of particular classes of disease, to a future number. These four are St. Antoine, Necker, Cochin, and Beaujon.

Hopital de St. Antoine.—The Abbey of St. Antoine was suppressed in 1790, and by a decree of the Convention in 1795, converted into a hospital, which at first contained one hundred and sixty beds. There are now between two and three hundred. This, though a small establishment, is distinguished among the other hospitals, by the

beauty of its exterior, its internal commodiousness and neatness, and the care and attention bestowed on the patients here received and treated.

Whole number of beds, 262.

	Medicine.	Surgery.
Men - - - - -	108	32
Women - - - - -	98	24

Statistical Table from the Annual Report of 1822.

	MEN.			WOMEN.			Total General for 1822.	Total General for 1821.
	Med.	Surg.	Total.	Med.	Surg.	Total.		
In the hospital, Jan. 1, 1822	97	32	129	67	18	85	214	257
Admitted dur- ing the year	1,277	404	1,681	876	195	1,071	2,752	2,487
Dismissed -	1,084	371	1,455	684	176	860	2,315	2,124
Deaths -	184	34	218	170	18	188	406	408
Remaining 31st Dec. 1822 -	106	31	137	87	19	106	243	212
Rate of mortali- ty, one for	6.89	11.91		5.02	10.78			
Mean number of days in the hospital -	29	29		35	35			

Surgery of St. Antoine for the year 1822.

Incisions for anthrax - -	5	Strangulated hernia - -	2
— for whitlow - -	30	Incisions for abscess - -	35
Lithotomy - -	1	Polypus of nose - -	2
Amputation of thigh - -	1	Hydrocele - -	2
— of leg - -	3	Extirpation of sarcomatous tumours	2
— of great toe - -	1	Fractures - -	70
Resection of tibia - -	1	Ligatures of arteries - -	10
Extirpation of scirrhus tumour	1		

Hospitals Necker, Cochin, and Beaujon.

These hospitals are not of sufficient extent or importance to justify giving a separate notice, with a table of population, mortality, &c. for each of them.

The Hospital Necker was founded by Madame Necker, in the convent of the Benedictines. The number of beds in 1822 was 120. There were then nearly two thousand patients received annually.

The Hospital Cochin was founded in 1782 by M. Cochin, curate of St. Jacques. It contains 125 beds, is clean and well ventilated, and its inmates are attended with particular care by the sisters of St. Martha, distinguished by their active and careful attention.

The Hopital Beaujon was founded in 1784 by M. Beaujon, a rich financier, and intended for the reception of twenty-four orphans, twelve of each sex. In 1795 a decree of the convention changed the establishment into a hospital for the sick and wounded. The benevolent founder expended on the hospital nearly three hundred thousand dollars, besides making an annual donation of between three and four thousand dollars. Excepting the hospital of St. Antoine, this is the most beautiful in Paris. There are no large wards, the interior being divided into rooms containing six or eight beds. It is served by the sisters of St. Martha, and is deservedly celebrated for its cleanliness and salubrity. From 1804 to 1814 there were received at St. Antoine 13,787 patients. In 1822 there were twenty-eight patients with small-pox, ten of whom died. There were received into the three above-named hospitals in 1822, 4313 patients. We shall give in one table the

Surgery of the Hospitals Necker, Cochin, and Beaujon, for the year 1822.

Amputation of thigh	-	-	5	Fractures	-	-	-	18
of leg	-	-	5	Extraction of cancerous tumours	-	-	-	9
of fingers	-	-	8	of polypus of nose	-	-	-	2
of toes	-	-	2	Incisions for whitlow	-	-	-	9
of forearm	-	-	1	for phlegmon	-	-	-	3
of hand	-	-	1	for abscess	-	-	-	15

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