**ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FRANCE.**

France, before the revolution, contained twenty-three universities, of which the most important have already been described. The others were those of Aix, Angers, Avignon, Besançon, Bourges, Bordeaux, Caen, Cahors, Dijon, Douai, Nantes, Orange, Pau, Perpignan, Poitiers, Pont-à-Mous- soo, Reims, Strasburg, and Valence. These venerable institutions disappeared during the revolution, and the pub­lic education of the country was for some time left without any legislative protection. After several unsuccessful at­tempts to establish a national system, an Imperial Univer­sity was instituted in 1808, which, with some modifications, has survived the various changes of government which the country has since undergone. The *Royal University of France* embraces the whole system of national education, and includes all the institutions for imparting instruction which are spread over the whole kingdom, from the lowest schools up to the royal colleges. The term may thus be considered as synonymous with the French national sys­tem of education. The university is placed under the di­rection of a council of six members, called the “ royal council of public instruction,” of which the minister of pub­lic instruction is the official president. Each counsellor has the special charge of one or more divisions of public in­struction. Subordinate to this council are the inspectors-ge- neral of the university, who are required to examine once a year the institutions of every description, each within a cer­tain district assigned to him, and to transmit a report to the council. The university is composed of twenty-six *aca­demies,* each of which comprehends two, three, or more of the departments into which the kingdom is divided, and contains one or more royal colleges. The presiding officer of each academy is the rector, who is appointed by the mini­ster of public instruction, and is assisted by two inspectors and a council. The governing body of each academy has the superintendence of all the communal colleges, institutions, *pensions* (boarding schools), normal schools, or schools for the education of teachers, and primary schools, within the dis­trict which the seminary comprehends. Besides the su­perintending body, the academy includes the teaching corps, or faculties ; namely, the faculties of letters, science, medicine, law, and theology, all of which however do not actually exist in every academy ; in some, indeed, there is no organization of faculties. The faculties consist of a variable number of professors, one of whom is dean, and a com­mittee of whom examine candidates for degrees. There arc however some institutions which are not subject to the jurisdiction of the university ; as the College of France, the Museum of Natural History, the *Ecole des Chartes,* School of Oriental Languages, the French Institute, and societies of all kinds for the advancement of knowledge.

The royal colleges are supported chiefly by the government, and the salaries of the professors, which are generally from L.80 to L.160, are paid from the budget of the minister of public instruc­tion. The students are divided into two classes, the *internes* and *erlernet,* or boarders and day-scholars. The communal colleges are supported principally by the communes in which they are si­tuate ; some of them have endowments, but the majority depend chiefly for their support on the fees paid by the students. The professors or teachers receive but small salaries, varying from L.40 to L.120. In 1833 a law was passed, ordaining that every com­mune by itself, or by uniting with others, should have one school of elementary instruction ; that every commune the population of which exceeded 6000, should also have a school for superior in­struction ; and that every department should have a normal school, either by itself, or in conjunction with some other department. In the schools of elementary instruction, reading, writing, arithmetic, and the established system of weights and measures, are taught ; anil the schools for superior instruction, in addition to the ac­quirements of the lower schools, embrace the elements of geo­metry. and its application to the arts: the elements of chemistry and natural history, as applied to the ordinary habits and pursuits of life; the elements of history and geography, and more especi­ally the history and geography of France. Since the passing of this law, the cause of education has advanced rapidly; the number of schools has greatly increased, and the proportion of children at school, though less than in some of the neighbouring countries, is about one third greater than before 1833. The following is a tabular view of the institutions comprised in the University of France in 1836.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Academies. | Departments. | Royal Colleges. | Professors. | Internal Students. | External Students. | Communal Colleges. | Institutions. | Boarding Schools. | Normal schools. | Primary Schools. |
|  |  | 1 |  | 160 | 230 | 16 |  |  |  | 1659 |
|  | 3 |  |  | 121 | 180 | 10 | 2 |  |  |  |
| Angers | 3 |  | 12 | 118 | 110 | 18 |  | 17 | 2 | 1,212 |
| Besancon | 3 | 1 | 12 | 110 | 160 | 15 | 2 | 21 |  | 1.671 |
|  | 3 |  | 13 | 170 | 120 |  | 5 |  |  |  |
| Bourges | 3 | 1 | 12 | 129 | 120 | 9 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 532 |
| Caen | 3 | 1 | 16 | 212 | 290 | 16 | 1 | 25 | 3 |  |
| Cabors | 3 | 2 | 2i | 90 | 160 | 9 | 1 | 47 | 2 | 1,451 |
| Clermont | 4 | 3 | 42 | 287 | 292 | 12 |  | 30 | 4 | 1,121 |
| Dijon | 3 | 1 | 13 | 88 | 150 | 20 |  | 36 | 2 | 1,885 |
| Douai | 2 | 1 | 12 | 131 | 110 | 21 | 6 | 43 | 1 |  |
| Grenoble | 3 |  | 14 | 133 | 14l | 7 | 4 | 25 | 2 | 1,120 |
| Limoges  Lyon | 3  3 | 1  1 | 11  20 | 88  276 | 220  264 | 9  6 | 5  10 | 18  52 | 3  3 |  |
| Metz | 2 | 1 | 15 | 190 | 240 | 5 | 1 | 26 | 2 |  |
| Montpellier | 4 | 2 | 23 | 199 | 256 | 17 | 2 | 36 |  | 1,766 |
| Nancy.. | 3 |  | 14 | 110 | 260 | 15 |  | 25 | 3 |  |
| Nunes..... | 4 | 3 | 39 | 365 | 226 | 10 | 2 | 26 | 4 | 1,594 |
| Orleans | 3 | 2 | 24 | 241 | 286 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 2 | 730 |
| Paria.... | 7 | 7 | 180 | 1629 | 3324 | 19 | 77  1 | 251 | 5 | 4,203 |
| Pau | 3 | 1 | 12 | 57 | 90 | 10 | 32 |  | 1,734 |
| Poitiers | 4 | 1 | 15 | 130 | 201 | 14 | 4 | 34 | 1 | 1,536 |
| Rennes | 5 | 3 | 33 | 346 | 407 | 18 | 3 | 35 | 2 | 941 |
| Rouen | 2 | 1 | 17 | 164 | 491 | 9 | 3 | 68 | 2 | 1,712 |
| Strasburg | 2 | 1 | 14 | 121 | 203 | 12 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 1 |
| Toulouse | 4 | 1 | 13 | 112 | 239 | 9 | 6 | 55 | 2 | 1,327 |
| Total | 86 | 44 | 626 | 5779 | 8870 | 318 | 146 | 1114 | 54 | 42,318 |

There are six faculties of *Catholic theology,* at Aix, Bordeaux, Lyon, Paris, Rouen, and Toulouse ; and two of *Protestant theology,* one, of the Lutheran or Augsburg Confession, at Strasburg, and another, of the Calvinist or Helvetic Confession, at Montauban, under the academy of Γoulouse. The faculties of law are nine, at Aix, Caen, Dijon, Grenoble, Paris, Poitiers, Rennes, Strasburg, and Tou­louse. There are three faculties of medicine, at Grenoble, Paris, and Montpellier; with seventeen secondary schools of medicine. The faculties of science are nine in number, at Paris, Bordeaux, Stras­burg, C⅛en, Toulouse, Montpellier, Dijon, Lyon, and Grenoble; those of letters or literature, seven, at Paris, Strasburg, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Caen, Dijon, and Besançon. In order to become a student in the faculty of law or theology, a person must have taken the degree of bachelor of letters ; and a course of three years in either faculty is requisite to obtain the degree of bachelor ; for the degree of doctor, four years ; and to obtain the degree of doctor in divinity, the candidate must defend a final and general thesis. Candidates for the degree of doctor in medicine must have taken the degree of bachelor of letters, and also of sciences, and must complete a course of four years. The faculties of law and medicine at Paris are greatly distinguished. The former has sixteen profes­sors, and had in 1838 upwards of 3000 students; the latter twenty- seven professors, and, in 1836, about 4000 students.

At the end of 1837, the total number of schools, public and pri­vate, throughout France, was 53,920 ; 39,504 for boys, and 14,416 for girls. The number of pupils at the same period was 2,651,492 ; 1,552,847 boys, and 1,098,645 girls. The masters of the elemen­tary schools have a residence, and receive a yearly salary of 200 francs, or little more than L.8 ; the masters of the superior schools have a residence and a salary of 400 francs, or somewhat more than L.16. The whole charge to the stale of the department of public instruction, according to the budget of 1838, was 19,006,673 francs, or nearly L.800,000, which was distributed as follows :—

Francs.

Central administration 686,623

General services 238,000

Departmental and academic administration 919,900

Superior instruction—faculties 1.972,050

Secondary instruction 1 ,655,600

Elementary instruction, general fund 1,600,000

additional , 3,500,000 Primary normal school 200,000

Literary and scientific establishments... 7,676,500

Subscriptions to literary works, 557,000

Total 19,006,673