

magnificent institution recognised "that, in spite of the diversity of applications, mathematics and physics are the indispensable basis of the studies in view."¹ Though the first period of the life of the *École normale* only counted four months,² we are indebted to it for the

traveller. The *École polytechnique* received an allocation of £12,000, and had 400 pupils to start with. On the 20th frimaire, an iii., the Convention, on a report of Thibaudau, voted the necessary expenses for the enlargement of the *Muséum d'Histoire naturelle* (Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 196),—viz., nearly £8000 for expenses, and £200 for each of the professors. The Museum had been originally destined for the culture of medicinal plants. Tournefort had given a great impetus to botanical, and Buffon, with Daubenton, to zoological studies. The Convention added several to the courses regularly held there on natural history, botany, mineralogy, and general chemistry. "Ces cours," says Thibaudau, "fournissent 500 leçons par an, offrent l'ensemble le plus vaste et le plus complet d'enseignement sur toutes les branches d'histoire naturelle dont le plus grand nombre manquaient totalement à la France et dont quelques-unes manquent encore à l'Europe, l'application immédiate de toutes les sciences naturelles au commerce et aux arts."

Of other scientific and teaching institutions I must mention the "Bureau des Longitudes." This was organised by the Convention on a discourse by Grégoire, 7th messidor, an iii. (24th June 1795), in which he refers to the British Board of Longitude and the superiority of the British navy (Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 219). The appointments to this bureau were the *géomètres* Lagrange and Laplace, the *astronomes* Lalande, Cassini, Méchain, De-

lambre, one of whom had to deliver a course of astronomy, the travellers Borda, Bougainville, the *géographe* Buache, and the artist Carocher. It had charge of the observatory, which had already been reorganised by a decree promoted by Lakanal on the 31st August 1793 (Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 76), and published in the 'Connaissance des Temps.' There were, besides, several military schools and the medical schools, not to mention other foundations less connected with our subject but equally important, such as the School of Oriental Languages, established in the *Bibliothèque nationale* (germinal, an iii., Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 215); the *Écoles de Santé*, established 14th frimaire, an iii., on a report of Fourcroy, in Paris, Strasbourg, and Montpellier (Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 194).

¹ Ibid., vol. i. p. 450.

² The *École normale* was closed on the 30th floréal, an iii., on a decree of the Convention dated the 7th of that month. Danton explained that the school had not taken the line which the Convention had marked out—the courses in general having offered a direct teaching of the sciences rather than an exposition of the methods which are to be adopted in teaching (Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 215). It also seems that the eminent teachers of this institution had few pupils sufficiently prepared to follow them. The *École normale* was reopened in the year 1808 under the Empire, by the same decree of 17th March which organised the University of France.