

higher, sense, viz., the highly specialized training which, coming as the crown of a broad secondary education, aims at doing the work, to quote Mr. Brereton's phrase, of a commercial Woolwich or Sandhurst.

Each of these grades or types of commercial education is receiving at the present time increasingly close attention on the part of the public, of governments, and of educational authorities, in all countries to which commercial prosperity is a matter of vital importance. The trend of opinion and of national activities is now so definitely in a commercial direction that education is naturally being so adjusted as the better to serve commercial ends. But it has already become clear that the three objects defined above are entirely distinct; that they call for different treatment, different kinds of teachers, different methods of organization and supply; and that nothing but confusion and waste result from attempts to mix them up or combine them.

The aim of the present paper is to describe certain efforts which are being made on the continent of Europe to provide the highest grade of commercial education—the kind of advanced and specialized training which a young doctor gets at the hospitals, a young lawyer in the lectures provided by the Inns of Court, a candidate for holy orders at a theological college, and a young publicist at the celebrated *Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques* in Paris, or at our own School of Economics and Political Science in London. Whether, indeed, these analogies hold good, is a subject of controversy. Some of the most eminent leaders of commercial enterprise, both in this country and elsewhere, deny that any school of commerce can make a man of business, just as the headmasters of some

great secondary schools in England (though not elsewhere) question whether any training school can make a competent man into a better teacher. Some of the pros and cons in this discussion are stated below; but, in the meantime, it will be admitted that the fact of France, Germany and Belgium, not to speak of Austria-Hungary, Italy, the United States of America and Japan, all showing a steadily increasing interest in this highest branch of commercial education, is at least an indication of its importance under the changing conditions of international trade.

## II.

The Institut Supérieur de Commerce at Antwerp aims at being a University for the future merchant and at the special training of those to whom the consular service of the country will ultimately be entrusted. It is a public institution. It is under the inspection of the State. Its professors are civil servants. The Belgian Government pays three-quarters of its annual cost and the municipality of Antwerp the rest. The latter is responsible for the erection and up keep of the buildings, and for its equipment. The annual subsidy of the State amounts to £1,800; that of the municipality to £600. The spacious new buildings, to which the Institute has lately been transferred, have cost the city of Antwerp £20,000. In November, 1897, when I visited the institution, by permission of the Belgian Minister for Trade and Labor, and of Dr. Grandgagnage, its distinguished director, its students numbered 233. Of these no less than 90 were foreigners, the Belgian Government welcoming students from other countries, and finding that the associations thus formed are indirectly helpful to the further-