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HIGHER COMMERCIAL EDUCATION AT ANTWERP, LEIP-  
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In common parlance, the phrase "Commercial Education" is loosely used as covering a number of quite different things. First, it may signify the evening classes, in such subjects as book-keeping, typewriting and commercial arithmetic, which youths and young women attend in increasing numbers in all industrial countries, with a view to better equipping themselves in the technical qualifications of clerkship. Secondly the phrase may mean a sort of secondary, or intermediate training, the curriculum of which is exclusively occupied with "modern" studies and is so devised as at any rate "not to spoil a lad for business life by filling his mind with a lot of things which will be of no use to him afterwards." In German-speaking countries and in Scandinavia "modern" secondary education of this type has recently made important strides. The "Realschulen" are a principal cause of German success in modern commerce. Something is being done in this direction in our own country, but it must be confessed that in England the phrase "commercial education" still suffers from rather sordid associations. It is often rather a cry of angry pro-

test against misplaced and mechanical kinds of classical education, than the mark of any very definite achievement in the direction of educational reform. In the mouths of some who use it, it rather implies active dislike of Latin grammar than a clear conception of some alternative discipline. In England, this kind of "commercial education" often enjoys the conventional epithet "sound," but it is apt to be more attractive in a prospectus than adequate to the purpose which it is supposed to have in view. "Modern" secondary education, if it is to hold its own against a good classical education, needs to be very good indeed. It has still to make its tradition. It has still to think out the fundamental principles of its curriculum. It has still to improve its methods of teaching, especially in the teaching of modern languages. But it will indisputably play a great part in the future.† Thirdly, the expression "commercial education" is used in yet a different, and even

† Reference may here be made to a paper by the present writer on "*The Realschulen of Berlin, and their bearing on questions of Secondary and Commercial Education*," printed in the "Special Reports on Educational Subjects," 1896-7. (London, Eyre & Spottiswoode.)

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