

ance of Belgian trade. The Institute has a staff of fourteen professors, and two Répétiteurs or assistants, exclusive of the Director, who himself takes a small but important part in the instruction. The normal course extends over two years, but a supplementary, though optional, year's work has recently been added to the curriculum. Each student pays a fee of about £10 for the first year, and of about £12 for the second. These fees go towards increasing the salaries of the professors. The complete first year's course includes the following subjects: First and foremost, the routine of a merchant's office, including practical instruction in advanced commercial arithmetic, rates of exchange, average and marine assurance, bills of lading, the execution of charter parties, calculation of the values of foreign weights and measures, and commercial correspondence in various languages; next, the history of commercial products, political economy and statistics, commercial and industrial geography, the elements of commercial law, with the following modern languages: German, English, Dutch (obligatory on Belgian students), and either Spanish, Italian or Russian. The second year's course carries forward the instruction of the above subjects to a higher stage, laying special stress on commercial law, and on the study of tariffs, and adding a weekly practical discourse designed to acquaint the students with the main regulating conditions of modern shipbuilding.

The students fall into two categories—those who enter their names for certain subjects only, and those who undertake the full course. The latter form the majority. They are required to pass an examination for entrance, the subjects being a composition in French; a translation

from French into English and German, physical geography, the outlines of universal history (a special period being announced beforehand), commercial arithmetic and the elements of book-keeping; the elements of algebra and geometry, the elements of physics and chemistry; commercial law and political economy. The entrance examination is held once a year, early in October, and is conducted by a Board nominated by the Minister of Trade. No one is advised to present himself for admission under the age of 17. Students, who have passed the leaving examination in a recognized Belgian secondary school, or have obtained the leaving certificate in a German secondary school with a nine years' course, are excused from the entrance examination, provided that their leaving or other certificate shows that they have a competent knowledge of all the subjects above named. Thus the work of the Institute bases itself upon the foundation of a liberal education, to be previously obtained by the student in a good secondary school. Students coming from classical schools have to pass the entrance examination in book-keeping, political economy, commercial law, arithmetic and chemistry. These regulations may be modified in the case of foreign students. Attached to the Institute is a preparatory course, in which those who so desire can obtain, at a fee of £4, special preparation for the entrance test. This course lasts from Easter to the beginning of August. The student who has passed the entrance examination is recognized as an *élève de première année*. At the end of the year he has to undergo an *examen de passage*, which is conducted by the teaching staff of the Institute. At intervals throughout the year the students are tested by oral and