

COMMERCIAL COLLEGES IN GERMANY

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Commercial colleges in Germany by Kurt E. Richter

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KURT E. RICHTER

**COMMERCIAL
COLLEGES
IN GERMANY**

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IN GERMANY

BY

DR. KURT E. RICHTER

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK

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TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE
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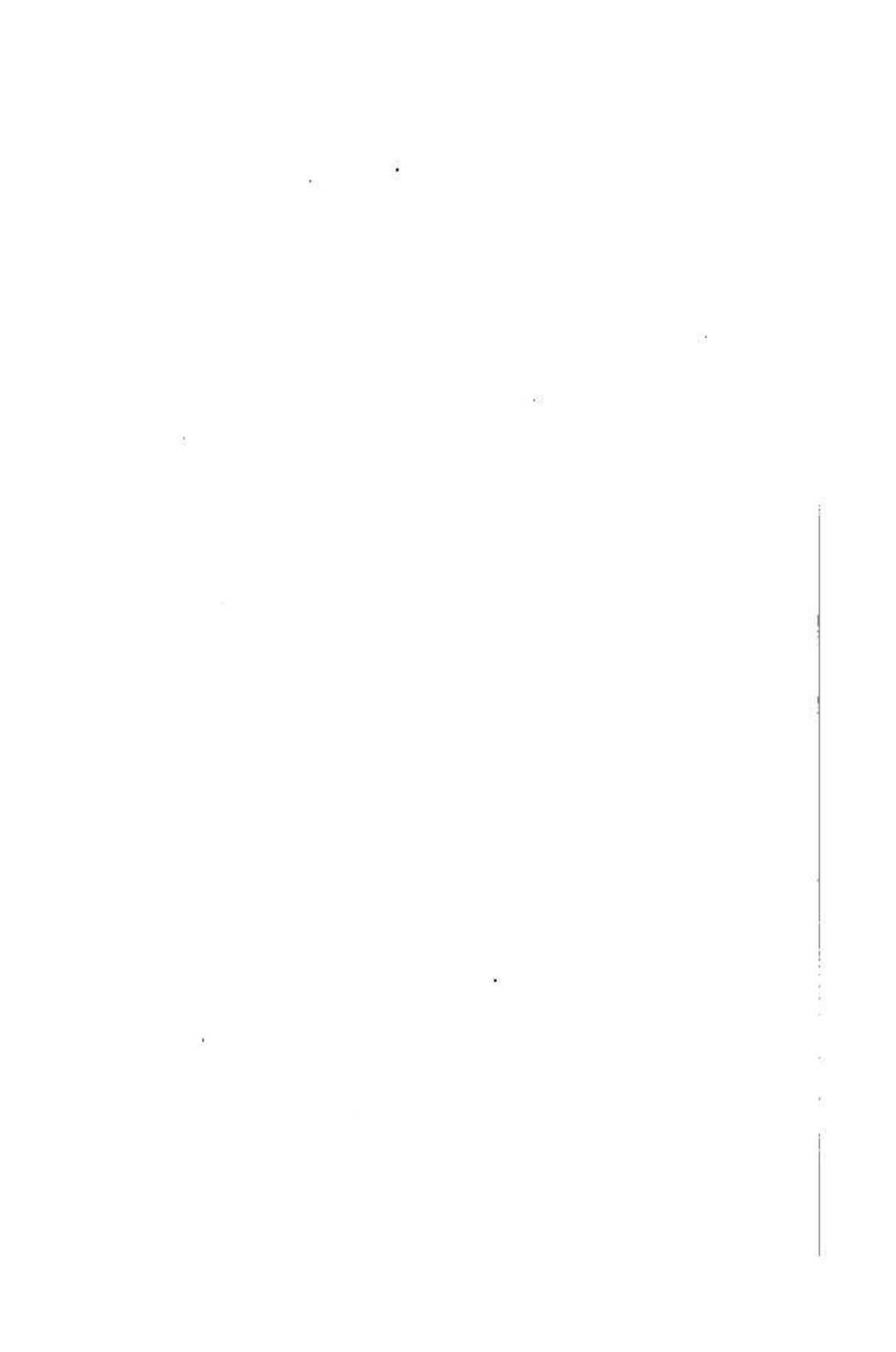
PREFACE.

The following paper owes its existence in a large measure firstly to President John H. Finley of the College of the City of New York, who by his kind interest greatly encouraged the writer in making an extended study of the commercial colleges in Germany, Switzerland and Paris during the summer of 1912; secondly to Professor Walter E. Clark, also of the same College, who by his valuable suggestions as to form and subject matter was instrumental in changing this paper from a meagre report to its present form. The writer takes pleasure in expressing his sincere gratitude to these two gentlemen.

Grateful mention must furthermore be made of the extraordinary courtesies received at the hands of the directors of the several commercial colleges, notably of Director Christian Eckert, Dr. phil. et jur. of Cologne, Professor Dr. B. Freudenthal and Professor Dr. F. Panzer, both of Frankfort, and Privy Councillor Professor Dr. Georg Kerschensteiner, Royal Councillor of Studies, city school commissioner and president of the "Kuratorium" of the Commercial College in Munich. They have not only supplied the writer with all desired information and latest material, but also have permitted him to enjoy unexpected privileges which have been a source of great pleasure and benefit.

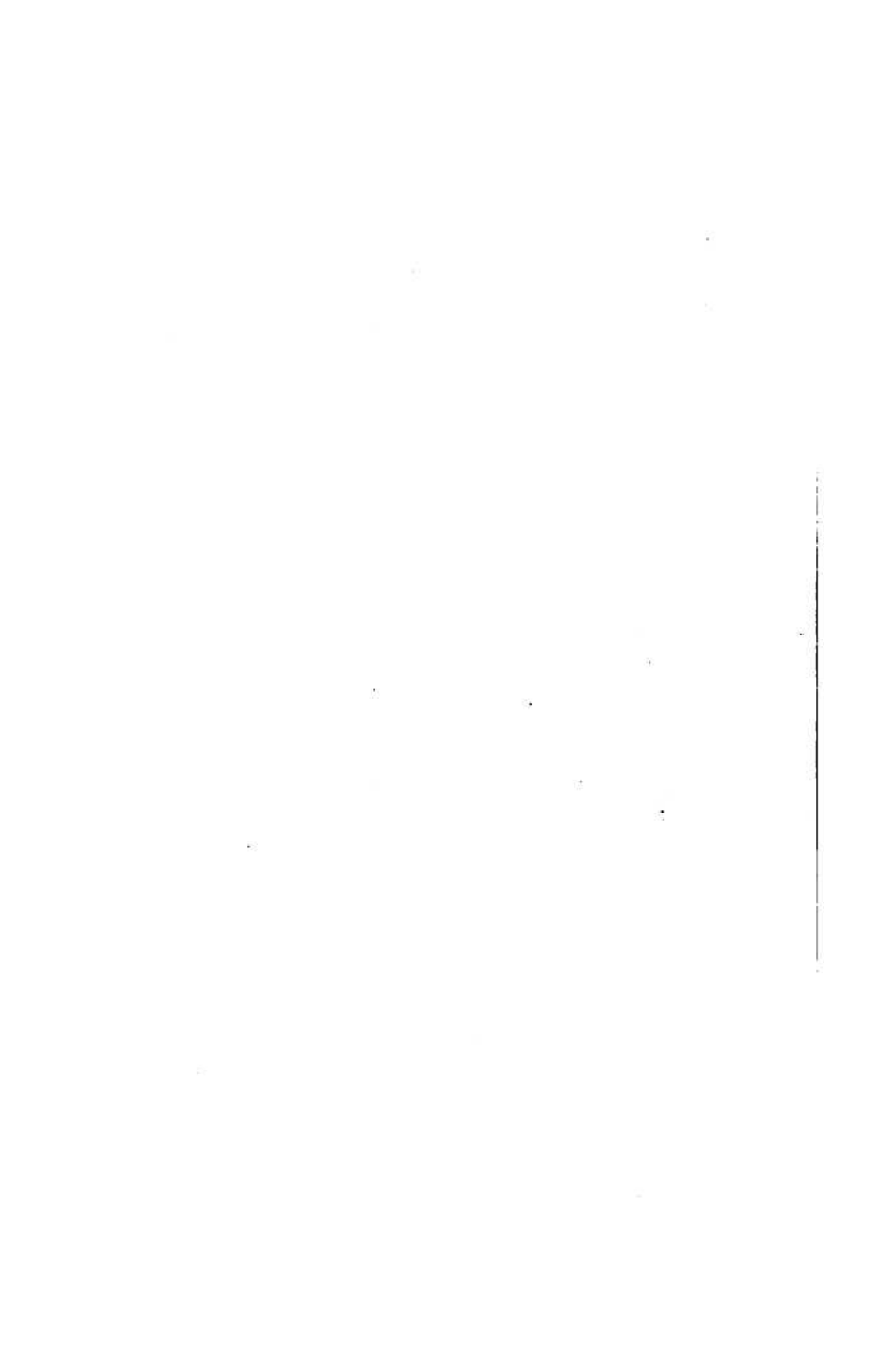
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COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
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I. FOUNDING OF COMMERCIAL COLLEGES.

No intelligent, thinking man to-day will deny the desirability of special higher education and training for a business man, who wishes to rise from the rank and file of the "office force" to an executive position in "his line." The complexity of business relations and the variety of problems that confront the modern business man are such, that "office training" exclusively will in the near future no longer suffice. Just as the pursuits of law, medicine, teaching, engineering, all have become scientific professions, so is the successful pursuit of business inevitably becoming a scientific profession. And just as the other professions necessitate broad preliminary training, followed by thorough professional courses, so does the profession of business demand a liberal and technical preparation.

Our so-called business schools have given and are still giving more or less efficient preparation for office work, the "mechanics" of business. Public commercial high schools have likewise taken over some of that same work. Higher training has been offered by colleges and universities only. However, as the fees exacted by the latter for such courses are often rather high, many able and ambitious young men are debarred from availing themselves of the opportunity to improve their efficiency and chances for success.

It is interesting to note that Europe, with its venerable institutions of learning and highly developed commercial life, felt the need for higher education for business men sooner than America did. Early in the fifties of the last century continental leaders in education were advocating the establishment of commercial colleges. In a report to the Chamber of Commerce in Cologne, written in 1855 by Gustav von Mevissen, the subsequent financial founder of the commercial college in that city, the writer expresses his conviction firstly, that it is the duty of the business world to devote part of its surplus to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge; secondly, that such surplus would most advantageously be devoted to the higher education of business men. However, such ideas received but little response, being too far in advance of the thought of that time, and these efforts were