

**SCHOOL EFFICIENCY  
SERIES; COMMERCIAL  
EDUCATION IN PUBLIC  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

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School Efficiency Series; Commercial Education in Public Secondary Schools by F. V. Thompson

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**F. V. THOMPSON**

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**T**HE School Efficiency Series comprises about ten volumes by as many educational experts on Elementary School and Kindergarten, High School, and Vocational Instruction, Courses of Study, Organization, Management and Supervision. The series consists of monographs—with additions plainly indicated in each volume—constituting the report of Professor Hanus and his associates on the schools of New York City, but the controlling ideas are applicable as well in one public school system as in another.

Among the authors contributing to these volumes are Professor Paul H. Hanus, Professor of Education, Harvard University, who is also general editor of the series; Dr. Frank P. Bachman, formerly Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Cleveland; Dr. Edward C. Elliott, Director of the School of Education, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Herman Schneider, Dean of the College of Engineering, University of Cincinnati; Mr. Frank W. Ballou, Joseph Lee Fellow for Research in Education, Harvard University (formerly Assistant Professor of Education, University of Cincinnati); Dr. Calvin O. Davis, Assistant Professor of Education, University of Michigan; Mr. Frank V. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Boston; Dr. Henry H. Goddard, Director Department of Psychological Research, New Jersey Training School for Feeble-Minded Boys and Girls; Mr. Stuart A. Curtis, Head of Department of Science and Mathematics, Detroit Home and Day School (Liggett School), Detroit; Dr. Frank M. McMurry, Professor of Elementary Education, Teachers College, Columbia University; Dr. Ernest C. Moore, Professor of Education, Harvard University (formerly of Yale University).

**SCHOOL EFFICIENCY SERIES**

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Public Secondary Schools**

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**SCHOOL EFFICIENCY SERIES**

*Edited by PAUL H. HANUS*

**Commercial Education in  
Public Secondary Schools**

**By F. V. THOMPSON**

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



YONKERS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK  
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1915



## EDITOR'S PREFACE

**T**HIS book deals with some important contemporary problems of commercial education in secondary schools, considered from the point of view of the investigator, teacher, and administrative officer, and aims at constructive proposals based on the actual needs of business as it is. These constructive proposals are the outcome of a critical examination of contemporary commercial education in secondary schools, together with certain investigations in the field of business in several cities in the United States, and of earlier studies by the author of commercial education in Europe. The volume also contains, in Chapter VI, Mr. Thompson's report on commercial education in the high schools of the city of New York, constituting a part of my report submitted to the Committee on School Inquiry of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment in 1912.

Although, as Mr. Thompson says in his Preface, there is considerable literature on commercial education, it is also true that there is much uncertainty and not a little actual misconception concerning the aims, scope, and methods of education for commercial life in the minds of business men and teachers alike—confusion and misconceptions that interfere with the formulation of just aims, and prevent profitable endeavor in preparing our young people for business careers.

Mr. Thompson's discussion of the distinction between clerical training and training for business, of desirable differentiation between commercial courses for the two sexes, his appeal to investigation to secure a fact basis for his contentions and recommendations, his insistence on the necessity of coöperation between business and education for

the training of workers and leaders in industry, together with his practical suggestions for rendering this coöperation effective, make this book a timely and, we hope, also a helpful contribution to the solution of the problem of how to secure satisfactory commercial education for prospective business men in our secondary schools.

PAUL H. HANUS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

**T**HIS volume does not present a comprehensive treatment of commercial education as a general subject. There is no dearth of treatises of this character, and of fairly recent date. Those writings cover the broader aspects of theory and practice, foreign commercial higher schools, and an exposition of the need and importance of commercial education of secondary grade. The purpose of the present book is to offer a descriptive, critical, and constructive treatment of current problems in commercial education; the treatment is further limited to the problems of the secondary schools. Throughout the book will appear the conviction of the author that readjustment of organization and methods, changes of direction, and expansion of our conception of the province and purposes of commercial education are imperatively needed. In the volume will be found as a separate section (Chapter VI) the report of the author on commercial schools and courses maintained by the public school system of the city of New York.

F. V. THOMPSON

JANUARY, 1915