



DIRECTIONS FOR PRONUNCIATION.

All Italian, French, and German words are written out phonetically, on the following system :

A as in *far*, represented by *ah*.

The Continental *e* has the sound of *a* in *fare*; it is represented by *eh*.

The Continental *i* has the sound of *e* in *deer*; it is represented by *ee*.

The following vowel sounds have no equivalents in English: French *e*, when not accented, something like the vowel sound in *love*. German *ö* (*o* modified, or *Umlaut*) has nearly the same sound. German *ü* is about half-way between the sound of *o* in *love* and *e* in *deer*. *O* and *u* have the same sound as in English, the *u* sound being represented by *oo*, as in *cool*. Italian *ae* has the sound of long *i* in English. German *ä* is the equivalent of *a* in *air*. German *eu* is sounded like *oi*, as in *toil*.

The following consonantal sounds have no English equivalents: German hard guttural *ach* and soft guttural *ag*. The French sound of *j* is represented by *zh* as nearly as possible. The French nasals *an*, *en*, *in*, *on*, can be represented but very unsatisfactorily in English only by adding a final *g*.

Whenever *ch* is found it is to be sounded like *ch* in *chair*. *C* always has this sound in Italian when followed by *i* or *e*. The Italian *ch*, on the contrary, always has the sound of *k*, or *c* hard, and is thus represented. The Italian *zz* has the sound of *ts* or *ds*, and is thus represented.

With this explanation of the phonetic system adopted to represent the foreign sounds, it is believed that the reader will find no difficulty in acquiring their proper pronunciation.