

last another decree was published, to which the Academy has given its assent in advance.

The time saved by the abolition of absurd rules and spelling traps, the Minister hopes, may be given to the study of standard authors. In conclusion the order ends with the admonition :

"Je vous prie de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que l'arrêté ci-joint "soit mis immédiatement en vigueur."

Professor Bober, of King's College, in his communication in reply to the circular from the Education Office, strongly recommended that the new French Grammar be brought to the attention of all our French teachers, as is being done throughout the world, perhaps even more vigorously than in France itself.

The translation of the rules, only slightly abridged, as they are given in the London and New York "School World," are given below. In some places, where illustrations of former usage were given, the examples have been omitted. It must not be forgotten that the old French Grammar rules are still allowed, and will be adhered to by many, especially among the old people. The new rules are "official," but not popular, of course, in *La Belle France*.

RULES.

SUBSTANTIVES.

Use of the plural or the singular. In all constructions, in which the sense allows of the complimentary noun being considered as either singular or plural, either number may be employed: *Des habits de femme(s)*. *Des confitures de groseille(s)*. *Des Prêtres en bonnet(s) carré(s)*. *Ils ont ôté leur(s) chapeau(x)*.

SUBSTANTIVES WITH TWO GENDERS.

AIGLE may be considered masculine, except when it denotes a standard: *Les aigles romaines*.

AMOUR, ORGUE, may be considered masculine in the singular and common in the plural: *Les grandes orgues* or *Un des plus beaux orgues*. *De folles amours*. *Des amours tardifs*.

DÉLICE, DÉLICES, need not be touched on in elementary teaching.

AUTOMNE, ENFANT, are common gender, and call for no special attention.

GENS, ORGE.—The adjective may in all cases agree with *gens* and remain feminine: *Instruits* or *instruites par l'expérience les vieilles gens sont soupçonneux*, or *soupçonneuses*. *Orge* may be used in the feminine without exception: *Orge carrée*, *orge mondée*, *orge perlée*.

HYMNE may be considered common, whatever its signification: *Un bel hymne*, or *une belle hymne*.

PAQUES may be used in the feminine to denote either a date or the religious festival.

PLURAL OF PROPER NAMES.

Proper names preceded by the plural article may always take the sign of the plural: *Les Corneilles*, *Les Gracques*. *Des Virgiles* (copies). *Des Virgiles* (editions). *Des Meissonniers* (pictures).

PLURAL OF FOREIGN NOUNS.

When nouns derived from other languages have become thoroughly nationalized, they make take the sign of the plural: *Des créats*, *des déficits*.

COMPOUND NOUNS.

Compound nouns may be written without a hyphen: *Des chefs d'œuvre*.