

PREFACE

The High School English Composition is intended as a text-book for use in the Lower Schools of the High and Continuation Schools. But, although the treatment is elementary, it covers the whole course in Composition, and may, therefore, be used as a basis of review in the Middle School also.

As the plan and method of treatment here followed is different from that found in most text-books on Composition, a word of explanation may be necessary.

In most Composition text-books each division of the subject is dealt with fully before another division is taken up. In this book, however, the material has been arranged according to what is sometimes known as the "spiral" method. The simpler points in paragraphing, sentence-structure, etc., are presented side by side in the earlier chapters, and the lessons are arranged in the order of increasing difficulty. The advantages of this spiral method of treatment are that the lessons are graded in difficulty, and that it is possible for the pupil to cover the different divisions of the subject in an elementary way during the first year. In this way a suitable course is provided for the pupil who is able to remain only one year at school.

The book is divided into two parts : Part I for the first year, and Part II for the second.

Part I deals with the elements of punctuation and form ; the choice and use of words ; the structure of the sentence, the paragraph, and the whole essay ; and also with the principles of simple narration, exposition, description, and argument.