

Lección Segunda

THE CONSONANTS

NOTE A.— Most of the consonants are pronounced approximately as in English. We will notice those only that are peculiar.

Z

The *z* is lisped, being somewhat like English *th* in *thin*.

Suiza,	vez,	brázo,	lápiz,	azúl,	razón. (1)
(swi-tha	vaith	brah-tho	lah-pith	a-thool	rah-thown)
Switzerland,	time.	arm,	pencil,	blue,	reason.

C

C has generally the sound of English *c* in *cat* (there is no *k* in Spanish). Before *e* or *i* it softens as in English, but is usually lisped like the *z* above explained, (see Obs. !).

Difícil,	francés,	dice,	ciudad,	cervéza,	háce.
(dee-fée-theel	fran-thaice	dee-thay	thee-oo-dad	thair-váy-tha	ah-thay)
Difficult,	French,	says,	city,	beer,	makes.

J

J is like a very strongly aspirated *h*, or, more strictly speaking, is like the German or Scotch *ch*. The Spanish letter *h* has no phonetic value, being always silent.

Cája,	hija,	hijo,	jóven,	júlio,	júnio,	mujér.
(kah-hah	ee-hah	ee-ho	ho-vuin	hoo-lee-o	hoo-nee-o	moo-hair)
Box,	daughter,	son,	young,	July,	June,	woman.

G

The Spanish *g* has usually the sound of English *g* in *go*, but becomes equivalent to the Spanish *j* (see above) before *e* or *i* (just as English *g* becomes *j* in like case).

Generál,	frágil,	colégio,	Egipto,	ligéro.
(hay-nay-ral	fráh-heel	co-lay-hee-o	ay-heep-to	lee-hay-ro)
General,	fragile,	college,	Egypt,	light, quick.

(1) In some parts of Spain and in South America and Mexico, the *z* instead of being lisped, is given the pure *s* sound (as in *pas*).