

TO TEACHERS.

In the preparation of this book, three principles have been kept always in mind:

First. The habit of distinct and accurate pronunciation differentiates the educated from the uneducated, the scholarly from the illiterate. In acquiring this habit, one will be greatly aided by a mastery of the principles of pronunciation set forth in the first pages of this book, under the heading Orthoepy.

Accurate pronunciation is of the first importance in learning to spell. Our language is unphonetic to a slight degree only. The pronunciation is an index to the spelling of a great majority of words, and every exercise in spelling is, of necessity, an exercise in pronunciation also. For this reason, the exercises in this book have the words divided into syllables and marked diacritically, thus associating the correct spelling with the correct pronunciation.

Second. Experiments have proved that most people are "eye minded" rather than "ear minded," that visual percepts are retained longer and are recalled and reproduced more easily, more vividly and more accurately than are auditory percepts. For this reason, the words in this book are given in the first column just as they appear in print, not marked diacritically nor divided into syllables, and the learner's first percept of a word is a mental picture of the word obtained through the eye. In spelling the word afterwards, he merely recalls and reproduces this mental picture.