French is derived, They are great at derivation. I once asked a boy the meaning of *tropique*. "It is derived" said he "from the French *trop, too much, ique* from Latin *hic, here, heat* understood. *Too much heat here*." Learned notes are appended to the text just as if boys read notes. They do sometimes however, as the following story shows.

Diable ! ce'st quil est capricieux le bonhomme was to be translated. A boy found in a note "*capricieux* from Latin *capra* (a goat), skipping about like a goat—capricious." He wrote "The good man is devilishly like a goat."

Once I think I rendered a service to England. For fifteen years the French examiners invariably asked this question at the matriculation into London University. "Which is the only substantive in French ending in *ence* that is of the masculine gender and why?" Imagine the unhappy candidates going through the thousands of words which make up the French vocabulary. Now *silence* comes from the Latin *silentium* which is neuter as you know while all the others come from the Latin ending *entia* which are feminine. Well one day I suggested "don't you think it would be better to ask the question if you *must* ask it, in a more straightforward manner? He accepted the suggestion and for two years more the question was asked thus : "Why is *silence* the only French word ending in *ence* that is masculine?" One morning he came to me furious and said "I believe one of the candidates is laughing at me." "Indeed?" said I. "Yes indeed, look here, saw you ever such impudence? I read the answer to the famous question. "*Silence* is the only French noun that is masculine because it is the only thing that women can not keep." I do not know, but I believe that I saved that young wit from being *ploughed*. But this I do know that never since has that question been asked in the matriculation papers of London University. This is a good thing for I think a question should be changed say every three years ; at any rate seventeen years was long enough for that question to be asked. I don't know what French

dictionaries you use here but in England, they have free trade there you know, they can get dictionaries very cheap. From my experience I could not blame the boys if they trusted in Providence for the word rather than the dictionary. They were often more fortunate. The lazy boy always takes the first word, sometimes the English pronounciation of the French word. The cute one takes the last to make you believe he has been through the whole list. I tried to impress on them the necessity of using words which make good sense in English, and to use common terms. How is this ? We were translating one day Jules Sandeau's 'Mademoiselle de la Seigliere.' The Baroness de Vaubert says to the Marquis de la Seigliere "*calmez-vous*" It was translated "calm yourself." I asked for something more colloquial, some every day expression for this. A little fellow held up his hand "please sir I have it." He always has it. Well ? "Keep your hair on old man."

How is this ? "*Mon frère a tort et ma soeur a raison*." "My brother has some tart and my sister has some raisins." This is translation *at sight*. Numerous other similar anecdotes kept the students laughing for half an hour. He showed that he could even give a lesson in French without losing any of his characteristic humor. I always found he said that English boys studying French always had great difficulty in telling when a verb had to be conjugated by "*avoir*" and when with "*être*."

How is a boy to know that "I have arrived" in English is "I am arrived" in French ? Of course there is a long list of words in the grammar, which are conjugated with *être*. Those grammars ! they are worse than the dictionaries. When *être* is to be used the verb denotes a *state* as well as an *action*. Thus when you *have* arrived you *are* here. When you *have* died you *are* dead. When you *have* washed yourself you *are* washed,—that is of course if you have done it properly. Those grammarians give an exercise on the subjunctive mood and think the boy should know all about them. They gen-