

PREFACE

In few languages is the ratio of simple roots to compound words as small as in German; hence the relatively greater importance of a knowledge of the principles of composition. Experience with elementary classes, for which this book is designed, indicates that those principles are rarely understood. The attention of teachers is therefore especially invited to the novel treatment of compound words exhibited in the vocabulary. To be sure, the novelty consists only in the application of a well-known dictionary method to a school-text; yet while in dictionaries its employment is the result of practical considerations, notably economy of space and labor, in the school-text its use can only be justified on pedagogical grounds.

Less of an innovation is the attempt to make the reproductive exercises suitable for use in connection with a review of elementary grammar. Many teachers will welcome just such material, while on the other hand it is not so specialized as to be useless for general composition.

The text follows the *Volksausgabe* of Rosegger's writings, published by Staackmann in Leipzig in 1899. At the instance of the publishers, a few minor changes have