

PREFACE.

THIS book is intended as a guide to a quick knowledge of Rules, Conjugations and Syntax relieved of the useless complications of French Grammar, according to an Act of the "Minister of Public Instruction, Worship and Fine Arts," of France, dated March 11th, 1901.

The time saved by the elimination of absurd rules may be given to the study of standard authors, and the valuable hours once wasted over unimportant peculiarities in spelling may be devoted to *memory training* and *free composition*. There is a general agreement among reformers that the place of exercises and translations into a foreign language should be taken by free composition in the language on subjects drawn from the texts already studied, so that the compositions are reproductions of what is already known.

Great use can also be made of a system of questions and answers carried on in the foreign language by the teacher and pupils, the former asking the questions and the latter answering them. The subjects of the questions are, of course, drawn from the texts which the pupils have just been reading or *memorising*.

This exercise is quite effective if directed by a person capable of conversing in French or sufficiently familiar with the grammar to correct the mistakes of the student.

The purely oral exercises should precede any attempts at written reproductions of what has been learned.

The questions and answers may be exact literal reproductions of the lesson memorized or free paraphrases, with new words explained, either beforehand or afterwards.