

# NEW METHOD FOR THE TEACHING

OF

MODERN LANGUAGES

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The chief object of this little Review is to circulate a new method for teaching modern languages, and, naturally, we have first adapted this method to the French language.

The chief characteristics of it are :

1o. A series of graduated lessons according to the ordinary progress of thought and its capacities of expression, and not according to the grammatical order.

2o. A synopsis of the invariable clauses of sentences in one part, and in the other the clauses subject to changes, thus giving to the least experienced professor an opportunity to vary his questions, and to his pupils to answer with facility.

3o. Our vocabulary is a very plain one; consequently the pupil may make frequent use of it, even in daily intercourse in business, and conversational matters; it gives him the means of immediate practice of the French language, and exercises at the same time his ear, tongue and memory.

Although our method is a natural one,—or rather because it is so, which we intend to prove,—we will make use of translation, but only for mental use.

Nature has several ways of proceeding; circumstances modify its regulations. For instance, a mother repeats patiently to her child the names given to surrounding objects, while explaining them by gestures, until it knows their meaning and clearly understands the relation existing between the object or action and the word used to denote it. Robinson Crusoe on his island, made use of the above means to be understood by Friday. The method followed by the mother and by Robinson Crusoe is the natural method, because in both cases it is the only one possible. But in ordinary courses of study, the meaning of a foreign word is easily and clearly expressed by a corresponding word in the pupil's own language; consequently this mode of translating is quite natural. Still, some of the so-called natural methods