

sential features of the method and briefly to discuss a few of them.

The oral lesson, which takes the place of vocabularies and the exercises of such a course as Fasquelle's, is the distinctive feature of the method. In this oral work, the pupils learn the meaning and the use of words and sentences, much as an Englishman would do in France by hearing them correctly employed, and then they acquire facility in using these words and sentences by repeating the utterances of the teacher, by answering suitable questions, and later on by describing and relating. When a word or an expression is first introduced, the teacher must contrive to suggest its meaning to the pupils without translating it. This is not so difficult a matter as might be supposed. A very large number of names, either nouns or adjectives, can be taught by simply pointing out the objects or qualities they designate:—Le livre, le crayon, le canif, rouge, noir, blanc. Then you have the elements of a model sentence: Le livre est rouge. Practice in constructing similar sentences follow at once. Putting the question, De quelle couleur est le crayon? You elicit the reply, Le crayon est noir.

Will you please observe that this answer is not a mere repetition? Similar sentences had been used by the teacher as models, and all the material required for this answer had been provided, but the answer itself is a new combination requiring thought. Indeed, the close attention and the precise thinking required in this exercise render it, in my opinion, a most excellent mental gymnastic. Moreover, the pupils are delighted to be able to answer you in French the first day, imagining that in a very short time they will have mastered the French language. That illusion, like many another, is both harmless and in the highest degree encouraging.

Other classes of words are taught similarly:—Prepositions by placing objects in different relations to each other; many verbs and adverbs by means of gesture. Practice in the use of the new forms is given at every stage of progress.

These object lessons may be greatly extended by the use of suitable pictures. This series (showing samples) includes about thirty of the commoner animals, birds, insects, etc. Fruits and vegetables are shown in the same way. These