

APPENDIX E.

PRONUNCIATION OF JAPANESE WORDS.

The following rules will be sufficient to give approximately the pronunciation of the Japanese words used in this volume:

1. Do not accent any of the syllables in a Japanese word. The language is not altogether without accents, but they are so few and slight as compared with what we have in English that the beginner had better take no account of them.

2. There are as many syllables in a word as there are single vowels, and each syllable ends with a vowel or with the letter *n*, as in *Hondo* (sometimes changing to *m* in the middle of a word). A seeming exception appears when there is a double consonant in the middle of a word, as *Nikko*. In that case each letter is pronounced, the first being joined to the preceding vowel.

3. Consonants have nearly the same sound as in English. *Ch* is pronounced as in *child*; *g* is always hard (in some parts of Japan it is pronounced like *ng*, as in *Nagano*); *s* is always soft, and *z* before *u* is sounded as *dz*, as in *Shizuoka*.

4. Vowels are nearly always pronounced long, as follows:

a as in *father*.

e as *ey* in *they*. In some monosyllables, and sometimes at the end of a word, it is shortened to be nearly like *e* in *men*; for example, one of the prominent cities is pronounced *Kobè* rather than *Ko-bay*.

i as in *machine*.

o as in *bone*.

u as *oo* in *boot*. At the end of words of more than one syllable it is often slighted, and it is frequently slighted also in the middle of a word.

y before a vowel makes it long.

ai as in *aisle*.

au as in *bone*.

iu as in *yule*.

ua as in *quarantine*.