

continuous narrative in which are introduced conversations on diverse subjects, pictures of French life, and historical anecdotes of the two provinces. It is very attractively illustrated with twelve views of different places visited by the travelers. The book is not intended for beginners. It is planned for students of high-school age, who have had two or three years of French. After each chapter (and the chapters are short) there is an exhaustive questionnaire on the text, followed by four or five articles of grammar exercises based on the material just studied. It is a well-planned and interesting little reader.

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*Simplicité.* A Reader of French Pronunciation. By JULIUS TUCKERMAN. New York: American Book Co., 1908. Pp. 128. \$0.50.

The aim of this book is to teach French pronunciation in as brief a time as possible. Each lesson takes up two or more new sounds which are explained by the vowel sounds in English words. Following this explanation is an exercise of a few lines, made up of sentences whose only *raison d'être* is that the words contain the sounds presented in the lesson above. The result is sentences of this type: "It snowed all the week. Paris is situated on the Seine. The sick man broke a vein. The queen was pained at the death of her sister. Have you seen the whale?" etc. It may be a simple way to teach pronunciation, but it is simplicity bought at the expense of interest and enthusiasm. How a student can gain any *Sprachgefühl* from such a method is difficult to understand. At the end of the book there is some general reading matter, which, the author says, "'combines the useful and the good'—a notable departure from the usual fairy tales." The first part of this section deals with the human body—head, eyes, mouth, trunk, arms, and legs. This is followed by the story of a loaf of bread, from the breaking of the earth, and the sowing of the seed, to the baked loaf as it comes from the oven. And finally there are a couple of pages on the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms. The book is not in harmony with the present movement in modern language teaching.

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*A Baker's Dozen for City Children.* Music by ISABEL VALENTINE; words by LILEON CLAXTON. New York: The Kindergarten Magazine Co.; 1907. Pp. 16. \$0.50.

The subjects embodied in these thirteen songs for kindergarten children are well chosen, but the songs themselves are below the average. The texts lack charm and the melodies are commonplace. The small people to whom they are offered will sing them for the sake of the ideas expressed but will gain nothing from them of aesthetic value. Poor art for little children is especially to be deplored.

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