ELEMENTARY GRAMMAR OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

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F. SCHÖPWINKEL.

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PREFACE.

THIS work is mainly an adaptation of the first part of Dr. C. Ploetz's* celebrated "Cœurs gradué de Langue Française." The peculiar merits of that popular work consist in its truly elementary character. It relies not so much upon mere repetition as upon gradation, avoiding the difficulties occasioned by special rules and numerous exceptions, and carefully laying down only broad landmarks: for experience has proved that it is worse than useless to burden the memory with the niceties of a language until its leading principles have been thoroughly mastered. Great care has been taken, throughout the work, that the examples, reading lessons, etc. should be so arranged as to make the application of grammatical rules both easy and pleasant. Numerous remarks that may be useful, especially to the teacher, have been added in an Appendix.

* Professor at the Royal French College, Berlin.

FIRST SECTION.

Pronunciation,* Principal Tenses of Avoir and Être.

LESSON 1.

The French Alphabet.

A, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, x, y, z.

Vowels: — a, e, i, o, u, y.

Consonants: — b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, x, z.

A *is generally sounded like* a *in father, but shorter.***
e *at the end of words of more than one syllable, is, as in English,* mute.
e *at the end of monosyllables, has a guttural sound, somewhat like the* e *in father.*
i *is sounded like* i *in ill.*
o *is generally sounded like* o *in not.****
y *is sounded like* i.
The sound of the French u *is not to be found in English.*

Le (masc. sing.) } *the.*
La (fem. sing.) }

Before a vowel, **l'** *instead of* **le** *or* **la.**
The French language has no *neuter gender.*

Le mur† *the wall.*	* l'ami *the friend.*
la porte *the door, gate.*	l'amie *the friend (fem.)*
la rue *the street.*	la table *the table.*
la flotte *the fleet.*	le livre *the book.*
le navire *the vessel.*	la plume *the pen.*
le pari *the bet.*	la robe *the dress.*
le mardi (*the*) *Tuesday.*	la dame *the lady.*

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* *See No.* 1 *Appendix.*
** *See No.* 2 *Appendix.*
*** *See No.* 3 *Appendix.*
† *The* r *in French, is always sounded as in the English word: very.*

Lesson 2.

Au *and* **eau** *are generally sounded like* o *in note.**
eu *and* **œu** *are generally sounded like* i *in sir.***
ai *and* **ei** *are generally sounded like* a *in mare.*
ou *has the sound of* oo *in moon.*
The sound of **oi** *is produced, by pronouncing the French* o *and* a *quickly in succession* (**oâ**).

Dieu *God.*	le roi *the king.*
l'eau f. (*the*) *water.****	la reine *the queen.*
le feu (*the*) *fire.*	la poudre (*the*) *powder.*
le fleuve *the river.*	le tiroir *the drawer.*
la fleur *the flower.*	la tour *the tower.*
le miroir *the looking-glass.*	le trou *the hole.*
le bateau *the boat.*	l'autre *the other.*
la voile *the sail.*	pour *for.*
la faute *the mistake.*	peu *little.*

When two vowels are to be pronounced separately, a tréma (¨) *is put over the second.*

Le poëte *the poet.* le poëme *the poem.*

Lesson 3.

Nasal sounds.

An, am, en, em *nearly like* an *in swan.*
on, om *nearly like* on *in song.*
ain, aim, in, im, ein *nearly like* an *in* an-*gry.*
um, un *nearly like* un *in* un-*cle.*
ien, yen *no similar sound in English.*
Before a vowel, m *and* n *have their usual sound.*†

un (masc.) / **une** (fem.) } *a or an.*

Un nom *a name.*	le monde *the world.*
un bain *a bath.*	la montre *the watch.*
un pain *a loaf of bread.*	la fin *the end.*
une main *a hand.*	le vin (*the*) *wine.*
un marin { *a seaman.* / *a mariner.*	le lundi (*the*) *Monday.*
l'imprimerie f. *the printing-office, printing.*	le vendredi (*the*) *Friday.*

Lesson 4.

When the next word begins with a vowel, the mute final consonants are carried over to it: —††

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* *See No.* 4 *Appendix.*
** *See No.* 5 *Appendix.*
*** *See No.* 6 *Appendix.*
† *See No.* 7 *Appendix.*
†† *See No.* 8 *Appendix.*

s, **x** *and* **z** *being sounded like the English* **z**.
d *and* **t** *like* **t**.
The **t** *in* **et** and, *is never carried over.*

Présent *of* **avoir** *to have.*

J'ai *I have.**	**nous avons** *we have.*
tu as *thou hast.*	**vous avez** *you have.*
il a *he has.*	**ils ont** *they* (m.) *have.*
elle a *she has.*	**elles ont** *they* (f.) *have.*

Exercise 1.

1. J'ai un livre. 2. Tu as une plume. 3. Il a un ami. 4. Elle a une robe. 5. Nous avons un bateau. 6. Vous avez un navire. 7. Ils ont une imprimerie. 8. Elles ont un miroir. 9. La table a un tiroir. 10. La reine a une amie. 11. La robe a un trou. 12. Tu as une fleur. 13. Le mur a une porte et une tour.

14. *I have a friend.* 15. *Thou hast a book.* 16. *He has a watch.* 17. *She has a friend (f.).* 18. *We have a queen, and you have a king.* 19. *The boat has a sail.* 20. *You have a looking glass.* 21. *They have a vessel.* 22. *The queen has a fleet.* 23. *The lady has a dress.*

Lesson 5.

E *before a double consonant followed by* **e** mute, *is sounded somewhat like* **a** *in mare.*

Elle *she.*	le paratonnerre *the lightening-conductor.*
une ombrelle *a parasol.*	la terre *the earth, estate.*
la nouvelle *the news.*	le verre (*the*) *glass.*
la renne *the rein-deer.*	la forteresse *the fortress.*
la pierre *the stone.*	la paresse (*the*) *idleness.*

Exercise 2.

1. Elle a une ombrelle. 2. Nous avons un renne. 3. La forteresse a un mur et une tour. 4. Le poëte a un poëme. 5. Vous avez une terre. 6. La tour a un paratonnerre. 7. Elle a un verre. 8. Ils ont une pierre.

9. *He has a glass.* 10. *She has a flower.* 11. *We have a lightning-conductor.* 12. *You have a printing-office.* 13. *They have an estate.* 14. *We have a parasol.* 15. *I have a stone.*

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* *See No. 9 Appendix.*

Lesson 6.

The final consonants **g, p, d, t, s, x** *and* **z** *are* mute.

Le palais *the palace.*
le port *the port, harbour.*
le bras *the arm.*
le nez *the nose.*
un Allemand* *a German.*
la paix *(the) peace.*
le temps *(the) time.*
le lait *(the) milk.*
un enfant *a child.*
deux *two,* trois *three.*
le bois *(the) wood.*
le riz *(the) rice.*
le printemps *(the) spring.*
le rang *(the) rank.*
le banc** *the bench.*
le mois *the month.*
le mot *the word.*
le pont *the bridge.*
le toit *the roof.*
maintenant *now.*
autrefois *formerly.*
devant *before.*
dans, en *in.****
mais *but.*

Exercise 3.

1. Le port a un mur, le mur a une porte, la porte a une tour. 2. Le fleuve a un pont. 3. Nous avons un banc devant la porte. 4. Nous avons maintenant le printemps. 5. Le roi et la reine ont une flotte dans le port. 6. Vous avez maintenant la paix. 7. Vous avez une pierre devant la porte. 8. La tour a un toit et un paratonnerre. 9. Le palais a une porte.

10. *You have a bench before the door.* 11. *We have a fleet in the port.* 12. *The roof has a lightening-conductor.* 13. *The king and the queen have a palace.* 14. *The vessel and the boat have a sail.* 15. *The child has a flower.* 16. *They have a hole in the wall.*

Lesson 7.

Fait *made, done.*
pris *taken.*
appris *learnt.*
bu *drunk.*
dit *said, told.*
vu *seen.*
lu *read.*
vendu *sold.*
perdu *lost.*
entendu *heard.*

Exercise 4.

1. Dieu a fait le monde. 2. Nous avons vu une flotte devant le port. 3. J'ai fait un pari. 4. Tu a perdu le pari. 5. Il a pris un bain. 6. Il a bu le vin, et elle a bu le lait. 7. Nous avons vu la reine dans la rue. 8. L'enfant a lu le livre. 9. Ils ont pris un bain dans le fleuve. 10. J'ai bu le vin dans un verre. 11. Ils ont vendu le riz. 12. Tu as peu appris. 13. Nous

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* *The* **e** *is quite mute:* — All'-mang.
** *In* banc, **c** *is mute.*
*** *See No.* 10 *Appendix.*