

**MODERN
LANGUAGE
TEACHING, VOL. I**

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MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

**MODERN
LANGUAGE
TEACHING, VOL. I**

MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHING

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION

EDITED BY

WALTER RIPPMANN

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF

F. B. KIRKMAN, E. L. MILNER-BARRY, AND A. A. SOMERVILLE

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A. SOMERVILLE

VOLUME I. No. 1

MARCH, 1905

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Modern Language Association was held at University College, Manchester, on January 12 and 13, 1905.

On Thursday, January 12, the chair was taken by the PRESIDENT (Professor M. E. Sadler, M.A., Victoria University of Manchester).

The Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, Dr. HOPKINSON, attended at the commencement of the proceedings to welcome the Society. He said that it was with very great pleasure that he heard that the Society intended to meet in Manchester this year, and that it would be agreeable to them to meet within the walls of the Victoria University. The meeting at Manchester was especially pleasant to him owing to the fact that it was to be held under the presidency of one of the Professors of the University whose presence there was ever welcome. He would like to offer,

on behalf of the University, a most hearty welcome to the Society, both to Manchester and to the University. The work of the Modern Language Association was a necessary one, although older and younger Universities alike were recognising more and more the important place which modern languages and the teaching of them would occupy in equipping students for their after-life. The subject had to be looked at from that point of view by those persons who had the working of educational institutions, and were brought into contact with parents, and were acquainted with their aspirations, their means, and the hopes which they entertained for the future of their children. It was not necessary to say anything to the members of the Society from the philological side of the teaching of modern languages, and the position which the study of them must take when the subject was dealt with

upon a University basis. The point of view that appealed to him with still greater interest was the literary one, and he hoped that in the literary branch as well as in every branch of language teaching they would all realize more and more the importance of stimulating in early life the literary interest of the students. Whether the subject studied was Latin, or Greek, or English, or any other modern language, let them try to call up in their young people—both boys and girls—something like literary enthusiasm, and a feeling that even a minute study of a language had a part in bringing out and realizing more completely and thoroughly the beauty of the mode of expression and the power of the thought to which the literary form was meant to give the most vivid expression. And he was sure that the University would welcome the Association the more at the present time, having regard to the fact that in the newly-formed Faculty of Commerce it would be found that the study of modern languages was an essential part of the work of the students. The mercantile community was looking to the Universities to afford facilities in that direction. The studies would, from a University point of view, aim very largely at dealing with the form of commercial correspondence, or what had been called by somebody 'commercial slang,' and the means of stating accurately and clearly in another language such things as had to be said.

Teaching of that kind would be valuable, and he did not think that it would be at all beneath the dignity of a University to adopt it. No doubt things were changed since he attempted the study of modern languages at school. The result of the studies of the past had been a lamentable failure. He was sorry to say that one of the things which impressed itself more and more upon him from time to time in going about the world was a deep regret that modern language study had not had more attention paid to it, and that it was not carried on in a more efficient method in his own school-days. It was a hopeless thing for anyone whose mind was not constituted on a special and peculiar model to have to learn a modern language by turning to numerous rules with numerous exceptions, contained in a document which was not even rivalled by any of the codes which were issued from the Education Office. Such a method of learning to speak or write a modern language could not be salvation for anyone whose mind was constituted on the model of ordinary humanity. He was glad to know that the discussions of the Association would be devoted to some of the points which he had indicated, and that they would be carried on by persons who possessed real practical experience on the subject. He was sure that the kind of discussion which would take place, and the presence of those members of the Association with which the University was now

honoured, would be most heartily welcomed.

The PRESIDENT: You would wish me, ladies and gentlemen, before the Vice-Chancellor leaves us, to offer to him on your behalf an expression of thanks for his kindness in coming to welcome us, and for the encouraging words which he has addressed to us. (Applause.)

The HON. SECRETARY (Dr. E. R. Edwards) presented his report.*

The HON. TREASURER (Mr. de V. Payen-Payne) reported as follows: I have just been told by the Hon. Secretary that there is no balance-sheet; so you must take my word for it that we are in debt about £30. We have been unable to pay our printers' bill, £29 odd. It really is not so much that our expenses have been greater this year than our receipts, as that some years ago we had a big debt on our publication, the *Modern Language Quarterly*, amounting to nearly £75, and we have been paying that off gradually. As a matter of fact, we are in a better financial position this year than we were last year. Our Hon. Secretary has just told you of the munificent hospitality we received in Paris at Easter, and if we are to return the same hospitality to our French colleagues who, I hope, are coming over this Easter, I fear that we shall have to send round the hat to receive them in the same way as we were received ourselves.

* This is now in the hands of the members of the Association, as well as the balance-sheet.

A statement with regard to the publication of the Association, the *Modern Language Quarterly*, was, in the absence of Mr. Greg, read by Professor Rippmann.

Professor RIPPMAUN said that he might be allowed to make one or two remarks with regard to the teaching section. As they had heard in the Secretary's report, it had been decided to have two publications, one of which was to be for teachers and was to be published about eight times a year. It had been very hard for him and those associated with him to obtain contributions to the magazine when there was a likelihood of those contributions not being published for several months. It was hoped that the teaching publication would be issued at regular intervals during term time, and he thought that he might promise that the whole thing would be carried on in a business-like fashion. He trusted very sincerely that all the members of the Association would take a keen interest in the publication, and that they would support him in his endeavours to make it of real use to teachers generally.

Mr. STORR begged leave, as Chairman of Committee, to move that the Secretary's report be received and adopted. It showed the multifarious activity of the Association in the past year, and he thought that it would be acknowledged that it showed, on the whole, progress all round. Perhaps they would say that Mr. Payen-Payne's statement did not, on the whole, show pro-