

**A PRACTICAL
TRAINING
IN ENGLISH**

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A practical training in English by H. A. Kellow

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H. A. KELLOW

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IN ENGLISH**

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A PRACTICAL TRAINING IN ENGLISH

BY

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PREFACE

THIS book is intended for those who have received the usual elementary grounding in English and are ready to begin more advanced work.

The lessons follow actual class-room practice as far as possible, and therefore may be regarded as a kind of casual teaching, but on a formal basis. By this method it is hoped to train the pupil into a certain routine proficiency without destroying his initiative.

The *Questions and Exercises* which follow the poems are designed to elucidate the text, to promote independent judgment on the part of the pupil, to prepare his mind for the subsequent matter, and, in some cases, to refresh his memory in regard to former lessons. The word *Composition* which forms the second heading is used in a very wide sense. It will be seen to embrace not only the usual exercises, definitions, etc., but also logical analysis and even a little elementary criticism, given by way of digression. The heading *Prosody* is self-explanatory. It should be stated that in the earlier lessons the metre has occasionally been regularised, but cautions against a too mechanical scansion are also provided. An attempt has been made to visualise certain stanza forms: but these diagrams are in no wise to be regarded as a substitute for the usual memorising of a sample stanza. In certain cases the broader metrical variations have been shown; and, although there are modulations of the voice which no symbols can represent, the teacher may use these diagrams as a basis for lessons on the finer gradations of stressing. The *Study of Words and Expressions*, it is hoped, will provide sufficient practice in derivation and will give a training in the minute observation of a particular passage. The Roots have all been taken from Skeat's *Etymological Dictionary*.

Many more exercises might have been devised. It is thought

that sufficient have been given to fix the required ideas and at the same time retain the interest of the pupil. Be this as it may, other exercises can easily be improvised from the additional poems. These have been printed generally as test pieces; but occasionally they serve also to break new ground.

Lessons on the growth of the English Language and Literature have been placed at intervals throughout the book, and, where possible, these have been correlated with each other and with the illustrative extracts preceding and following them. For this reason the archaic spelling has been retained in many poems. These latter range from Chaucer to Swinburne.

The Time Charts show not only the chronological sequence of the various authors but also the different departments of literature to which they gave their chief strength. Some of the charts, too, give at a glance the characteristics of any given period—whether it was a time of dialects, and so on.

For these charts and for other valuable assistance the writer is deeply indebted to Mr John Talman, M.A., one of the lecturers in History at the University of Glasgow. When properly used such charts are a splendid teaching instrument, and they are bound to add to the value of the book.

To Mr Theodore Watts-Dunton, the friend and literary executor of Swinburne, grateful acknowledgment is made for permission to print the extract from *Tristram of Lyonesse*, and to Messrs Ellis for a like courtesy in respect of Rossetti's poem *The Sea Limits*.

H. A. K.

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A PRACTICAL TRAINING IN ENGLISH

I

ORIGIN OF ENGLISH

ABOUT the middle of the fifth century certain Germanic tribes left their homes on the low-lying shores of the North Sea, crossed over into Britain, drove the natives of that island to the mountainous districts, and set up kingdoms of their own in the conquered territory. No doubt there were many fierce battles, much ruthless slaughter, and perhaps even actual extermination, before the natives—who were called Celts—yielded up their land and the invasion thus became a settlement. Except the names of the victorious bands, practically nothing has been recorded of these early wars. All the tribes were of the same descent, and, with slight differences, spoke a common tongue; but all did not land at precisely the same time nor at the same place. Their names and their order of arrival are:

THE JUTES, who probably came from Jutland about 449.

THE SAXONS, who came from the country between the Elbe and the Eider about 477.

THE ANGLES, who came from Schleswig-Holstein about 530.

While dwelling on the continent each tribe had occupied its own separate tract of land, and this arrangement was adhered to in Britain. The Jutes, the first comers, settled down in Kent, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight. The Saxons colonised Sussex, Wessex, and Essex. The Angles, the last comers and most formidable in numbers, occupied a great stretch of the eastern seaboard from Norfolk to the Forth. This territory was