

**FRENCH DAILY LIFE: COMMON
WORDS AND COMMON THINGS:
A GUIDE FOR THE STUDENT AS
WELL AS FOR THE TRAVELLER**

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French Daily Life: Common Words and Common Things: A Guide for the Student as Well as for the Traveller by Walter Ripman & Walter H. Buell & Dr. R. Kron

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COMMON WORDS AND COMMON THINGS
A GUIDE FOR THE STUDENT
AS WELL AS FOR THE TRAVELLER

ADAPTED BY
WALTER RIPPMAH
AND
WALTER H. BUELL
FROM
DR. R. KRON'S
"LE PETIT PARISIEN"

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Introduction

THE needs of beginners in French have been met by two little volumes which are intended to express only those forms of thought and conduct which are common to English, French and German boys and girls. The child has, it is hoped, learned through them to think in French about his studies, his games and his home. But it is one of the objects of this series to teach him to think and speak as a French boy does after he is a little older and when he comes in contact with the life of the street, of society and of business.

For the teacher who desires to continue the use of French in the class room, there has been a wide chasm between the book for beginners and the study of French literature. The simplest short stories are foreign to the child in thought and action. Narration is parrot-like and devoid of imagination because to his mind the background of the picture is lacking. For the same reason question and answer are apt to become stereotyped and mechanical. A man may understand grammar, read history, know geography, study monuments, and steep himself in his Racine and Hugo and

move through the Paris of to-day like a spectre of the past.

One who desires to speak anything but Americanized French must understand those features which characterize the French people and differentiate them from the English or the German. The celebrated Dr. R. Kron of Germany, who understood this difficulty very clearly, undertook to meet it for German children in a book, "Le Petit Parisien," published in July, 1895. It received such a welcome in Germany that in less than four years six large editions were exhausted. French and German critics have helped improve the original work, and it is now a standard text-book in German schools. It can be relied upon as a thoroughly trustworthy guide to Parisian French. It was re-issued in 1898 as one of Dent's series of text-books, under the title "French Daily Life," and its reception in England has been as hearty as the first notices of the book were appreciative.

The more I read the book the more strongly I am convinced that it will receive a warm welcome from American teachers. They will find here a vivid portrayal of many phases of French life which it would take them many years of reading to understand. They will also find a rich practical collection of words and phrases which it would take them years of culling to gather. It is like a trip to Paris to read the book. Its atmosphere is French

and its language is that of the France of to-day. In this lie its interest and its usefulness.

The pupil is taken through a great mass of interesting, well-arranged incidents of daily life. They become his mental property, and his mind is so charged with pictures and phrases that it will effervesce, if given an opportunity, not merely in the tale of what somebody else did when he went to Paris, but in the sparkle of personal experience. He will discuss matters of health and home, go sight-seeing and make excursions to Fontainebleau, order lunch in a café and go to the opera, make purchases and bicker with cabmen, go to school in arithmetic and take lessons in army life, make visits and receive calls. There is almost no end to the possibilities of the book.

I know of no more interesting or helpful traveling companion for one who is going abroad. One who has tried the ordinary book of French phrases will appreciate the value and helpfulness of such a sprightly and comprehensive guide.

WALTER H. BUELL.

THE HOTCHKISS SCHOOL,
Lakeville, Conn.

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