EXERCISES IN LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION

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Exercises in Latin prose composition by Frank Ritchie

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FRANK RITCHIE

EXERCISES IN LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION

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EXERCISES

IN

LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION

BY

FRANK RITCHIE, M.A.

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PREFACE

In the compilation of a book of this kind the main difficulty lies in determining the order in which the various constructions shall be dealt with. It is obvious that a scientific arrangement, in which constructions were grouped according to their natural relationship, however valuable for purposes of reference, would be of little use in teaching Composition. In such an arrangement constructions must necessarily be classified without regard to their difficulty or the rarity of their occurrence, and the attempt to follow such an order would involve the premature introduction of difficulties and the undue postponement of some of the easiest and most ordinary constructions.

While, however, it is impossible that the practical should exactly coincide with the logical order, it is highly desirable that both pupil and teacher should be conscious of some method in the order adopted. An attempt has accordingly been made in this book to effect a compromise between the logical and the practical.

Part I. is a reprint of the English Latin Exercises in 'First Steps in Latin,' and affords practice in the Conjugation of Regular Verbs and the Declension of Nouns.

Part II. affords further practice in Accidence, and introduces the more ordinary constructions of the Simple Sentence.

Part III. deals with the Compound Sentence, following the Scheme of Analysis, but exhibiting each kind of Clause in its simpler forms only.

Part IV. goes over the same ground as Part III., but also introduces the more difficult varieties of each kind of Clause.

The Appendix contains an English Latin Syntax, *i.e.* a Syntax arranged with a view to Composition. The Syntax of the Latin Grammar, arranged as it is mainly with a view to Translation, is necessarily of little use for Composition: thus the construction of 'dignus' is properly given under the head of Ablative, but to find the rule the pupil must hunt through all the rules of Case Construction, unless he knows or suspects that 'dignus' takes an Ablative. In an English Latin Syntax the Construction would be placed under 'of.'

The various constructions are arranged in the Appendix, not in the order in which they occur in the Exercises (where graduation of difficulty must be considered), but on a plan which exhibits their natural relationship, and is more convenient for reference.

In Parts II. and III. each Exercise consists of two sections, marked respectively *A* and *B*. These sections are parallel as regards the constructions introduced, and the second section is intended for use in cases where it is necessary to go over the same ground in successive terms.

F. RITCHIE.

SEVENOAKS:
August 1893.

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