PRACTICAL ENGLISH FOR NEW AMERICANS

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Practical English for New Americans by Rose M. O'Toole

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ROSE M. O'TOOLE

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PREFATORY NOTE

The author is indebted to Mr. John F. McGrath, Principal of the Eliot School, Boston, Massachusetts, for his many helpful suggestions; to Mr. James Farrell, Chief Examiner for New England, Bureau of Naturalization, for his expert assistance in compiling the naturalization "Facts" found at the end of each lesson; to Dr. Henry C. Link, Industrial Psychologist, for his exposition of the psychological principles involved; and especially to Mr. M. E. Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Schools in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has been a constant source of inspiration to the author in her work with the foreign born, and without whose aid and encouragement this book would never have been attempted.

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MESSAGE TO TEACHERS

It has been my privilege for the past ten years to observe and study the teaching methods of Miss Rose M. O'Toole in her work with the non-English speaking pupils in the city of Cambridge.

Her remarkable success as a teacher of the foreign-born first manifested itself in the Evening Schools. This success led to her appointment as model teacher, her work embodying the training and supervision of inexperienced teachers in this highly important field of immigrant education.

Her work has since grown from instructor of Americanization in plant classes to that of an industrial director of Americanization, . with the supervision and direction of several Americanization schools.

Miss O'Toole's success has been due largely to certain factors which characterize her work; first, a careful analysis of and her keen insight into the needs of the adult alien; second, a sympathetic understanding of his difficulties; and third, the close contact and actual experience of the teacher in the classroom.

The lessons and methods developed in this book are based on the foregoing factors,—that is, upon real experience and solid practice. They are well balanced and practical. They are suited to the needs of adult minds and have grown out of and been tested by actual classroom experience.

It is generally admitted that a great deal of the reading matter presented to the alien is too difficult for his comprehension. There is not a sufficient amount of easy reading material to allow the pupil to acquire anything like fluency. He is given only what would be called a meagre supply of beginners' reading before he is thrust headlong into intermediate work far beyond his ability to grasp or retain.

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