

**A MANUAL OF GERMAN
CONVERSATION: TO
SUCCEED THE GERMAN
COURSE**

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A Manual of German Conversation: To Succeed the German Course by George F. Comfort

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GEORGE F. COMFORT

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THE GERMAN COURSE.

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INTRODUCTION.

(Einführung.)

This Manual of German Conversation is intended especially for the use of students in Colleges, Academies, and High-schools who have finished the author's "*German Course*."

While every teacher will be guided by the circumstances of the particular class as to the method to be followed, the author would venture to recommend that in ordinary cases the study of the literary and of the practical side of the language should go hand in hand, and that the classes which are using the German Reader should devote one day in the week to the study of this Manual. This pleasing variety will be likely to kindle a new interest, and the knowledge of the language will be a more healthy and normal growth in the mind of the student.

Especial attention is invited to the following features of this Manual:

Familiar Conversation. These conversations are upon the most familiar subjects of daily life. As they are supposed to take place mostly in Germany, they involve many allusions to customs and usages which do not exist in America, and thus many words and sentences can be rendered only by a wide circumlocution. The translations of the conversations are given in parallel columns; the eye can thus turn rapidly from one language to the other, and by this near juxtaposition, variations of idiom are more strongly impressed upon the mind. A limited and judicious use of this method of studying a foreign language by means of parallel translations, which some of the best teachers of language go so far

as to claim to be the only true method of beginning the study of a living language, we consider to be of great value to the student.

Extracts from Catechisms of Science. As giving excellent examples of familiar use of scientific terms and expressions, there are given a number of selections from the Illustrated Catechisms of the Arts and Sciences, published by J. J. Weber in Leipsic. With many classes it may be found a useful and entertaining exercise to commit to memory some pages from these selections; the teacher could ask the questions, and the students could reply in German, giving also perhaps translations in English; or the questions and replies could be read alternately by the teacher and the class.

Idioms. Quite a large space is given to a collection of idiomatic expressions, in which are incorporated so much of the life and spirit of the language. Analogous English expressions are given in parallel columns. The words that are used in a figurative sense, and thus contain the essence of the idioms, are usually put in spaced letters (which correspond in German to italicized letters in English).

Items of News. In the journalism of the day, a class of expressions occurs, drawn mostly from business and official life, which vary essentially from those found in classic literature, or which are employed in ordinary familiar conversation. To illustrate the language of journalism, a few pages are given of items of news, which are taken, mostly without alterations, from German newspapers.

Advertisements. Every traveler has experienced the advantage that is to be derived, in learning a foreign language, from the study of advertisements as they appear in newspapers and circulars. The sentences are short and terse. The signification of half of the words is surmised without the aid of a dictionary. Advertisements refer to the usages, needs, and transactions of real life, and thus are keys to the state of civilization and culture of the people. The

advertisements that are inserted in this book are copied from German newspapers, with no variation, except that the names of persons and places are changed where violence would not be done thereby to the pertinence of the advertisement. For the sake of convenience, the translations to these, as well as to the items of news, are given after the German forms.

Vocabulary. The Vocabulary contains classified lists of words referring to various departments of science, art, politics, religion, trade, manufactures, and daily life. The words are not arranged alphabetically, but they are grouped according to their logical relations. In many cases, sentences and expressions are given which involve the technical words. Only some of the most prominent adjectives and regular verbs are given. The homonyms could have been greatly increased, especially by including the nominal derivatives of adjectives and verbs.

Definitions and References. As no dictionary is appended to this volume, wherever it is necessary to explain idiomatic expressions occurring in the extracts, the definitions of words not literally translated are given in foot-notes. Frequent grammatical references to the author's German Course are introduced in the Manual.

German Current-hand. To familiarize the eye with the German handwriting, several of the letters and forms of business from the second part of the German Course are given in the usual German Current-hand.

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