PREFACE

The passages in this book have been selected with a view to providing material for sight translation; they may also be used for intensive analytical reading. Some slight changes have been introduced in order to make them complete enough in themselves to be read without further information about the texts from which they were taken. The selections have purposely been made as varied as possible and include narratives, historical prose, general science, and other subjects.

Although in recent years tests of all kinds have been devised and tried with more or less success, translation, when properly used, remains the most accurate measurement of the degree of understanding a foreign language. Oral sight translation, accompanied by suitable explanations and comments, can be made profitable and interesting in the classroom; written assignments may be used to test the extent and particularly the accuracy of the student’s knowledge; both exercises are also helpful in increasing the learner’s vocabulary. Incidentally they should also contribute to the improvement of the use and understanding of English.

Good results, however, cannot be obtained by careless work, and in language study, as in any other study, success is to be had only through earnest application and sustained effort.

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