FOUNDATION LESSONS IN ENGLISH. BOOK I

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Foundation Lessons in English. Book I by O. I. Woodley & M. S. Woodley

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Frontispiece

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FOUNDATION LESSONS IN ENGLISH

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BY

O. I. WOODLEY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, MENOMINER, MICHIGAN

AND

M. S. WOODLEY

BOOK I

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PREFACE

THE language work in the public school has not been wholly satisfactory. The school world has realized this for a long time, and has been seeking a plan that will give real, tangible results.

Several years ago, in connection with a careful study of the subject of language work for the grades, a series of experiments was begun in our schools. The lessons presented in "Foundation Lessons in English" are the outgrowth of this study and series of experiments. At the earnest solicitations of teachers and superintendents who visited the schools it was decided to put these lessons into book form.

The lessons have been carefully and repeatedly tested in the class room. Great care has been exercised in the grading of them, and it is believed that they embody the essentials of elementary English, and are presented in such a manner that pupils of the intermediate grades can readily understand them.

The ultimate purpose of all language work is expression. This may be manifested in various ways. The oral and written speech of the pupil may be improved, he may show an interest in a better class of reading, he may enjoy the study of poems or choice prose selections, or he may detect errors in composition. In these and other ways there will be evidence of his growth in language culture. If some of these forms of expression are not apparent, the teacher must conclude that she is

PREFACE

not getting real results from her language teaching. Results must be looked for in the pupils themselves as well as in their answers to certain technical questions that may be asked. It is a mistake to consider the work which pupils put on paper in answer to questions the sole test of their growth.

The spiral idea of education has been followed in planning and arranging these lessons. Each year's work in the series includes nearly all the elements of language. When first presented, these are given in their elementary forms with very simple applications. Each succeeding year's work includes that of the preceding one. The subject develops by constantly enlarging circles, rather than by the addition of rings, or sectors.

To all who by their helpful criticisms, valuable suggestions, and words of encouragement have aided in the preparation of this book the authors feel deeply indebted. Special acknowledgment is made of the help rendered by M. V. O'Shea, Professor of Science and Art of Teaching, Wisconsin University, the late Superintendent S. S. Parr, St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Mrs. Emma T. McClear, Monominee, Michigan.

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