NATURAL WAY.

How then is one to learn a foreign language?

The answer is several, the best one to perhaps be a child learns to speak. A baby begins by repeating over and over again to its mother the sounds that will later be needed in earnest. Then it is that the pupil begins to learn.

He repeats the sounds in the foreign language and then attempts to say whole words on doing this for six months, during which time he has truly enjoyed himself. He should be able to say the names of everything in the room, the table, the chair, and the seasons, numbers, up to 1000, and should have learned the present indicative of verbs. He will then learn to answer questions.

Before passing on to the second stage it will be well to point out one great danger of phonetics in the hands of an untrained teacher—talking too much. It is necessary that each sound should be learned separately, but as quickly as possible. No exercises should be given so that the pupil should learn to pronounce the sounds in an easy natural way.

TRANSITION STAGE.

The pupil will find that the transition from phonetics to the spoken language is always the most difficult. It is possible, however, that the pupil can begin to read as soon as he can talk and write, and can be taught to read by means of a free composition and the writing of sentences in the foreign language.

Though grammatical mistakes may be made, the pupil should not be criticized, but should be encouraged to continue speaking the language. The teacher should play a very small part in the pronunciation of words, and should try to make the pupil understand what he is saying.

SOME CRITICISMS.

By RICHARD HOLTMAN, R.A.

The Direct Method has been criticized by some as being too strict, and not allowing for individual differences. It is true that the Direct Method is very strict, and it is necessary for the pupil to follow the teacher exactly. However, it is possible to find a way of teaching that is both strict and individual.

In the Direct Method, the pupil is taught to read and write in the foreign language. The teacher speaks the language and the pupil must follow exactly what the teacher says. This method is very strict, but it is also very effective. It is possible to find a way of teaching that is both strict and individual.

VALUE FOR BEGINNERS.

The Direct Method is not suitable for beginners. It is true that the Direct Method is very strict, and it is necessary for the pupil to follow the teacher exactly. However, it is possible to find a way of teaching that is both strict and individual.

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