



VERE FOSTER'S
COPY-BOOKS
MEDIUM SERIES

NAME.....

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VERE FOSTER'S COPY BOOKS

The essential principles of Vere Foster's system may be briefly stated as follows:—

From the beginning of their training pupils are taught to write words continuously, that is, from end to end without lifting the pen, and the characters are formed and the junctions effected so as to render such a method of writing natural and easy. The most important points to be observed by the teacher are:—

1. Formation of the letter a.— Commencing on the base-



line with the *hair-stroke**, the hand is carried up, then well to the right to form the top of the oval, then *back* a certain distance over the hair-stroke, round to complete the oval, and down for the down-stroke, and finishing the final hair-stroke at the upper line, as here shown.

All this is done *in one operation* without taking the pen from the paper. The principle involved in forming the *a* applies to all the letters of which *o* forms an element, thus:—



2. Every letter begins on the base-line with a hair-stroke.

The purpose of the initial hair-stroke is threefold. (1) As most junctions require such a hair-stroke, it is best to accustom the pupil to write the letter always as it is written in combinations; (2) in forming the oval letters (*o*, *a*, *d*, &c.) it is necessary to begin with a hair-stroke in order to form the oval properly; (3) the frequent carrying of the hand in a sloping direction from base-line to top-line is practice necessary for

giving it ease, grace, precision, and rapidity of movement. The base-line is chosen as the starting-point of the hair-stroke, otherwise there would be no definite place of beginning, and want of uniformity would result.

3. Final hair-strokes are always carried up to the top line, because in *joining letters*, the strokes must be invariably so carried up, and according to the principle of the system a *letter is regarded as part of a word*, not as an individual object.

4. The up-strokes slope more than the down-strokes. This, again, is to promote speed and ensure legibility. In carrying the hand from below, the stroke is more rapidly and easily performed with a forward slope than with one more vertical.

5. Greater distance is preserved between letters than between the parts of a letter. This ensures legibility, by preventing the confusion of one letter with another.

6. Loops and tails above and below the line are short, and set all *flourish* is avoided as being opposed to simplicity, and therefore to speed and legibility of writing.

7. Loops and tails of long letters are crossed as nearly on the line as possible.

As regards the question of *slope*, Mr. Vere Foster held that the amount of slope was of very little consequence so long as pupils were taught to write words continuously from end to end without lifting the pen.

*The term *hair-stroke* is used for the sake of convenience, though Mr. Foster did not approve of very fine up-strokes, or *hair-strokes* as usually understood.

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