



IN my Chat last month I told you it is possible to have an excellent working knowledge of English by mastering the use of 850 English words—if they are the right words. English scholars in two of the greatest universities in the world—Cambridge University in England and Harvard University in the United States—have chosen this list of 850 English words and have developed a system of instruction in the use of these words. They call it Basic English.

Here is what some of the authorities in English of Harvard University say about Basic English. I have their written statement before me. They say: "Basic English is a form of English in which 850 words, with certain additions for special purposes, will do the work of 20,000. It is possible in Basic English to give an account of the senses of all the other words in the language. That is *not* to say that this small number of

words will for all purposes take the place of every other word in the language.

"It was designed to give everyone a second, or international language which takes as little of the learner's time as possible, and which gives him all the necessary apparatus of language for everyday purposes. . . . It is a quick and smooth step in learning normal English. . . . in the shortest possible time with the greatest possible reward for work done."

We are told that one can acquire an excellent working knowledge of correct English within two years by means of Basic English.

It is not surprising that your Editor is an enthusiast for Basic English. You will hear more about Basic English in later issues of THE YOUNG CITIZEN, and we shall, from time to time, print some stories and articles in which only words of Basic English will be used. In that way THE YOUNG CITIZEN will be doing even more than in the past to as-

sist young Filipinos to acquire a satisfactory use of the world's greatest and most widely used language—English.

I receive numerous contributions for THE YOUNG CITIZEN in which there are many mistakes in English. If these writers had mastered the use of Basic English, they would be able to write articles with very few errors in their English. That would be a very great asset to them; it is a splendid accomplishment to be able to write well and correctly in what is probably the greatest language of the world today.

English is considered a difficult language to master. But by a careful study of Basic English, a foundation of the language—with a good working knowledge of it—may be acquired within two years. We hope that many of the schools of the Philippines will begin teaching Basic English.

Perhaps you would like to know just what those 850 words of Basic English are. We shall certainly publish the list in a later number of THE YOUNG CITIZEN. And not only that—we are going to begin a Basic English Section starting with the issue of January, 1942. Good-bye.—THE EDITOR.