BETTER THAN ADULTS

Faculty Children Learn French

By BARRY MOORE

From her quiet carrel on the second floor of the library, Madame Cassel daily works on her graduate degree. Aside from preparing a thesis on Balzac, she has the interesting and important position as professor of a primary French class for the children of faculty members.

The class meets for one hour every Saturday morning at 11:00, during the regular school year. The age limit is eight to twelve years. In the classes the emphasis is on conversation, vocabulary, French songs, types of French food, and general “everyday” Gallic culture. Special study sheets, especially prepared by Madame Cassel and printed by the administration, are used instead of textbooks.

Parents Are Rice Profs

Being Rice professors, the parents of the sixteen total French pupils are of course co-operative about the whole program; however, this is matched by the enthusiasm of the students themselves.

The combinations of students within the class itself is interesting: there are four cases of brothers and sisters, sisters, or brothers taking the course together; and there are two students whose parents aren’t on the faculty but did attend Rice (“They both are an asset to the class,” added Madame Cassel).

Learn Quickly

She went on to state “It is easier to work with children than grown ups. They develop an excellent accent quickly and their memories are fresher. In later studies, they will have no mental bloc toward the French language.” One of her former pupils is now taking French in a

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regular class, and is doing very well because of her background.

This is Madame Cassel’s fourth year at Rice, and also the fourth year of the French classes. Since it is probably that she will have graduated and left Rice by next September, the future of the class is as yet rather indefinite.

It is possible as in past years that the class will be continued by popular demand of the faculty.