

ESPERANTO BULLET

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WHAT IS ESPERANTO?

THE following reply is quoted from a translation of the Declaration of the First World Congress of Esperantists, at Bologne, France, August, 1905.

Esperanto is an attempt to disseminate in the whole world a language neutrally human, which, not intruding itself in the internal life of the people, and aiming not at all to crowd out the existing national languages, would give to the people of different nations the ability mutually to understand each other, which can serve as a peace-making language in the public institutions of those where different nations fight among themselves about the language; and in which can be published works which have an equal interest for all peoples. Any other idea or hope which this or that Esperantist connects with Esperanto, is his purely private affair.



THAT Esperanto is much more than the mere amusement of an immense band of enthusiasts and faddists is shown by the action of the United States Government in sending a special representative to the recent Esperanto World Congress at Dresden, Germany. Major Paul F. Straub, of the Medical Service, held the rather peculiar position, and as he did not know Esperanto before going to Dresden it may be taken for granted that he went as an impartial and unprejudiced observer. Major Straub returned an ardent advocate of the international language. During his stay in Dres-

den, only a week, he learned much of the language and its marvelous adaptability to international uses. He sat at table with representatives of ten different native tongues, whose national identities could not be detected by any "brogue" in their pronunciation of Esperanto. He saw the wonderful conventions, in which men of strong convictions poured forth their thoughts fluently, forcefully and freely in Esperanto. He saw, and listened, and came home convinced.

The relation of Esperanto to the Medical Corps may be briefly stated as follows: Since in so-called "civilized" warfare the surgeons of opposing forces treat the wounded of both sides with impartiality, a means of communication between Red Cross workers, surgeons and wounded is of great importance. Many lives are sacrificed from lack of it, so that Esperanto may be made the means of alleviating to that extent the horrors of international war.

It is worthy of note here that the Hydrographic Department of the United States prints information in Esperanto for use in the bottles which are cast at sea to mark the flow of ocean currents. Strong influences will soon be brought to bear for the introduction of the language in international postal matters—such as money orders, international stamp coupons, etc.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

THE University of Wisconsin is the latest great educational institution to put Esperanto into its regular curriculum. This school, while not known to popular fame as widely as some others, is nevertheless one of the most influential in the country. Its library of American historical documents is said to be unsurpassed, and has furnished material for many brave tales of early days.

ESPERANTO AND THE HOME PRESS

Mr. Crane, associate editor of the Mining World, Chicago, has an article on Esperanto in the issue of September 5th. Mr. Crane is convinced.

The Mexican Mining Journal, City of Mexico, in a letter to Amerika Esperantisto, says: "There is language problem enough here and the subject of a universal language is of interest to many men of many tongues. We will be glad to give the subject some notice as its interest warrants for our readers."

Henry D. King is having some good propaganda articles printed in New York City, principally in the Mail and Express.

The Military Surgeon, Carlisle, Pa., has an article in the September issue by Dr. Yemans.

Esperanto Gazeto is the name of a new Esperanto monthly published at Guadalupe, Mexico, Apartado 115. The subscription price is 75 cents Mexican.

Henry W. Fisher of Pittsburgh, has an excellent reply to the would-be reformers and improvers of Esperanto in the New York Times.

The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch is being well handled by some Esperantist who knows his business, and is giving much space to good articles.

James McKirdy of Pittsburgh, is publishing a series of articles in the Dispatch, of that city.

False reports of a split in the Esperanto Congress are being circulated, and should be corrected wherever found. The Boston Morning Globe echoes them in an editorial paragraph September 2nd.

A Boston actress acquired five hundred Esperanto letters and much notoriety by advertising theater tickets as prizes for the best letters in the international language.

The Musical American, New York, says that Felix Stoeller, whoever he may be, is writing an opera in Esperanto. Amerika Esperantisto would like to publish a translation of a popular Italian opera.

The simultaneous appearance of propaganda articles in several New England papers indicates that the New England division is using systematic effort with the press.

The Gloversville (N. Y.) Herald of Aug. 19 reports the formation of a Socialist Esperanto class, which is being attended by persons of all political creeds.

The New York Tribune of September 5 reports a resolution for the use of Esperanto, passed at the sixteenth international peace conference.

The Newark (N. J.) Times prints, in reply to a correspondent, information dated a year ago.

Philatelic Esperanto, of Buffalo, is out with Number Five.

The Worcester (Mass.) Telegram says there are forty nationalities in that city, and boosts Esperanto.

The Worcester (Mass.) Republic, one of the few French papers in the United States, is friendly to Esperanto.

The Elgin (Ill.) Press reports the opening of an Esperanto school.

The Augusta (Maine) Journal reports an Esperanto meeting of Christian Endeavorers in the Free Baptist church of that place.

The Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post prints on September 6th an editorial comparison of Esperanto and Greek, apropos of the mention of Greek as a possible international language. The Post seems convinced that Esperanto fills the bill.

The Springfield (Mass.) Union calls loudly and facetiously for the printing of all Harper publications in Esperanto.

The New York Press of August 9th has a two-column biography of Dr. Zamenhof.

The Associated Press correspondent of Washington put on a 500-word story of the appointment of Major Straub to Dresden, and this was taken by hundreds of papers all over the country.

The Hartford (Conn.) Courant has a half-column story of a Willimantic policeman who speaks Esperanto and thereby sends a "lost" Bohemian woman on her way in peace.

After two weeks spent in interviewing editors of leading magazines in New York, Boston and Philadelphia, Arthur Baker, editor of Amerika Esperantisto, reports that much favorable publicity is in prospect from those sources. As a matter of fact, there is an unfiled demand for good magazine articles discussing Esperanto.

The Elyria (Ohio) Telegram insists that its home town establish an Esperanto club, if for nothing else than to keep even with neighbor Amherst. It accompanies the injunction with a good editorial argument.

The Pittsburgh Sun is regularly publishing articles in Esperanto, with English translation for comparison and study by its readers.

ESPERANTO ON INCREASE

New Artificial International Language is a Successful Institution



DR. L. L. ZAMENHOF,
INVENTOR OF
ESPERANTO.

FOR thousands of years philosophers have recognized the need of bringing the various races of mankind into closer touch and sympathy by means of a common language. Many have been the attempts to supply such a language. About a quarter of a century ago the highly artificial language known as Volapuk was launched by Schleyer, but it was so difficult to learn that it was received by the world only as a sort of joke.

Dr. Lazaro Ludiviko Zamenhof, a Polish physician living at Bielostok, Russia, as far back as 1878 conceived the general idea of a new common tongue which, instead of being artificial and arbitrary like Volapuk, should be grafted on a system of root words existing in the leading languages, and thus easy for all races to acquire.

It was not till 1887 however that Zamenhof published his first pamphlet giving his idea to the world. He signed the *nom de plume* "Dr. Esperanto" to this pamphlet, "esperanto" meaning "hopeful" in the new lingo. It has been truly said that no one who gives a few moments of serious consideration to Esperanto can help being converted to it, and Zamenhof's pamphlet met with such instant recognition that Esperanto soon began to spread of its own accord.

The Esperantists do not aim to displace any existing language, but only to furnish a common basis of communication between peoples of all tongues, so that a person by merely learning this one language can be at home in any literature or among any native population employing it. It is not easy to picture the advantages that would accrue from the general introduction of such a common and mutual medium of intercourse. The babel of tongues which has kept the various nationalities so clannish has been an immense obstruction to the progress of civilization, for races that have no means of communication are certain to be jealous and antagonistic, while a common language means common ideals and sympathies.

Esperanto is, beyond all comparison, the easiest of languages to acquire, because, being artificially made, it avoids all the hard parts of natural languages, such as irregular verbs, etc., and allows no confusing "exceptions" to its plain and logical rules. One central ideal is at the bottom of the whole scheme: Esperanto makes use of everything that is common to our civilized languages, and drops all that is special to any one of them. For instance the English "w" and "th," which are such stumbling-blocks to foreigners, are eliminated, as well as the difficult French "u" and Spanish "j."

The alphabet employs 28 letters. Every letter has its own sound. Every word is pronounced as it is written, and there are no silent letters. It was Dr. Zamenhof's idea to make good use of what people already

know, so he did not invent a single new word for his language; he merely selected as root or base words such words as already existed in the largest number of leading languages, reforming the spelling of course according to the fixed rules of Esperanto. For example "explode" is a word which is found in most of the European languages, and so that word is adopted into Esperanto, but with the revised spelling "eksploidi." Many words of Latin derivation are taken advantage of, since the Latin roots are familiar in most of the modern languages. For instance "domo" in Esperanto means "house"; "filo," "son"; "pensi," to "think"; "histori," "history."

Dr. Zamenhof employs prefixes and suffixes liberally, so that by their use various collateral words are formed from the root words. Thus, "amiko" means "friend," and "mal-amiko" "enemy" (or "not-friend"); "forta" means "strong," and "mal-forta," "weak" (or "not-strong"); "veni" means "come," and "re-veni," "return." Likewise the root "ar" means a collection or group, and thus "vorto" means "word," and "vort-ar-o" means a collection of words—that is, a vocabulary. Similarly, "arbo" means "tree," and "arb-ar-o" means a collection of trees—that is, a forest. Then the suffix "in" denotes the feminine, and thus "frato" means "brother," and "frat-in-o" means "sister;" "knabo" means "boy" and "knab-in-o" means "girl"; "viro" means man, and "vir-in-o" means "woman." So when you are told that "patro" means "father," you know without being told that "patr-in-o" means "mother."

To count, you say: "Unu, du, tri, kvar, kvin, ses, sep, ok, nau, dek"; "dek-du" is "twelve"; "du-dek" is "twenty"; "ok-dek," "eighty," etc.

The sign of the noun is the ending "o"; thus, "tablo" is "table"; "letero," "letter"; "papero," "paper." The suffix "uj" denotes that which contains, and thus "mono" meaning "money," "mon-uj-o" means "purse." The suffix "aj" denotes the thing made from or having the quality of something else, and thus "bela" meaning "beautiful," "bel-aj-o" means "a beautiful thing"; and as the suffix "ec" denotes the abstract quality, "bel-ec-o" means "beauty."

The verbs are absolutely regular. The tenses have different endings, but there are no changes for person or nombre. Thus "am-i" means to "love," and the ending "as" denotes present; "is," past; "os," future. The adverbs end in "e" and thus "patre" means "fatherly." The definite article is "la". Adjectives end in "a" in the singular and "j" (pronounced like "y") in the plural; thus "bona hundo" means "good dog," and "bonaj hundoj," "good dogs." It is not hard to understand that the sence "La vento estas tre malvarma" signifies "the wind is very cold" (or "not-warm"). There are no arbitrary rules in Esperanto about the order the words shall take in a sentence (as in German, for instance), and this simplifies composition. There are a number of prepositions, conjunctions, etc., of course, but most of these have some suggestion in sound of their equivalents in English. Here are a few specimens of Esperanto, which anyone would almost understand at the first hearing:

"La patro estas en la kambro"—"The father is in the room."

"Antau la domo staras arbo"—"Before the house stands a tree."

"La alteco de tiu monto ne estas tre granda"—"The height of that hill is not very great."

"Bonan matenon"—"Good morning." (Accusative takes "n" ending.)

"Mi iras en la gardenon"—"I am going into the garden."

"En malbona vetero oni povas facile malvarmumi!"—"In bad weather one catches cold easily."

It is plain to see from what has been said that it is by no means a life work to acquire a practical knowledge of Esperanto. One writer says that after a single hour's study he was able to take up an Esperanto book and read it, and that the same day he wrote a letter in the new language. Of course he already was familiar with several languages and this helped him. But even a Chinese or Japanese, knowing nothing whatever of any European language, ancient or modern, can learn Esperanto in a month, while to acquire English, Russian, or French takes them years of study.

Thousands in all parts of the world are now learning this universal language. Over forty periodicals are published in it, and many books have already been translated into it. Our consul at Breslau, Germany, recently wrote the secretary of state urging our merchants to learn it and use it as a medium for extending our trade abroad. Advertisements in Esperanto are not uncommon, especially in Europe. The Esperanto congress which was held at Cambridge, England, last summer was attended by delegates of over a score of different nationalities, who were able to converse with one another perfectly, and these annual congresses are giving a great impetus to the spread of the language. This year the meeting was held in Germany and in 1909 will be at Chautauqua, New York.

In Europe, there is great enthusiasm over the matter. In Paris, there is a single Esperanto club of 3,000 members, and nearly fifty different classes in the language are being carried on. Commercial schools all over Europe are adding Esperanto to their courses of study, and recently a whole church service, including the hymns, was conducted in it. It is claimed that already 80,000 to 100,000 people have mastered the language.

Dr. Zamenhof holds that by employing some thirty prefixes and suffixes, 900 root words are sufficient to serve the purposes of all intercourse. The Esperanto vocabulary at present embraces from 2,000 to 3,000 words, but of course it is possible to greatly increase this number by going into the shades of meaning.

THE foregoing article was published in the "Pathfinder," an educational weekly of Washington, D. C., in March, 1908. We suggest that our readers secure its reprinting, with such adaptations and changes as may be desired, in local papers. Kindly give the "Pathfinder" credit for the article is used as it stands.

NO LACK OF BOOKS

NOBODY who is familiar with the number and variety of text-books for the study of Esperanto can doubt that the language is quite widely disseminated. There are no less than seventeen for English and American students (the best of which, according to the British Esperantist, London, is *The American Esperanto Book*); there are probably as many for the French, eight or ten for

the German, five or six each for Spanish, Italian, Russian, etc. There has appeared an Esperanto text-book for learning French, and one for learning Japanese, it being claimed that one can learn Esperanto and two other languages in the same time it would require to learn one other language without knowing Esperanto. This is, of course, because Esperanto contains the essential international elements of all the European tongues, besides by its logical methods giving the student a clear comprehension of the principles of grammar.

ESPERANTO TECHNICAL DICTIONARY

ESPERANTISTS are preparing what will probably be the largest dictionary of technical and scientific terms in the world. In the Scientific Office at Geneva the various branches of knowledge have been divided into 100 sections or sub-divisions, and experts from all over the world, each in his special line, are assisting in compiling and editing the dictionary. It will have definitions in Esperanto, with translations and synonyms in most of the European languages. The work will require years in completion—or rather in the preparation of the first edition, as such a work must be constantly revised—and when it appears in print it is expected that Esperanto will be a means of exact scientific and technical information greatly superior to any other language. A wealthy Swiss, M. Rene de Saussure, is helping the enterprise financially.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO LEARN?

QUITE naturally the answer to this question depends upon the regularity of the time devoted to its study and to the student's previous linguistic study, as it would in the study of any language, but one can judge in a general way by the results of examinations for the two grades of diplomas granted by the national associations.

The Preliminary Examination (*Atesto pri Lenado*) is a thorough test on the grammar of the language as shown in the exercises and explanations of the *American Esperanto Book*, together with some easy reading of Esperanto prose. To obtain an equal acquaintance with a national language would require at least a year's work at school or college, yet this preliminary diploma in Esperanto has been obtained by some students in four to five weeks of study.

The advanced examination (*Atesto pri Kapableco*) requires a thorough acquaintance with the syntax of the language and fluency of expression only obtainable in a foreign national tongue after years of study. The comparative ease in the acquirement of Esperanto is demonstrated when it is realized that a well instructed student will be able to successfully pass this test after a few months of study.

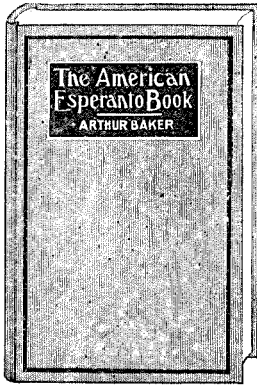
IMMENSE ESPERANTO LIBRARY

THE largest Esperanto library in the world is that of George Davidov, of Saratov, Russia. Sro. Davidov, has issued a 63-page catalogue showing the extent of his library, which contains about 1500 separate titles. And still one can hear an occasional college professor who ought to know better saying that "Esperanto has no literature!"

SEVERAL newspapers and magazines have mentioned a clock made by W. H. Pratley, of New York City. It is called an Esperanto clock because only an Esperanto can read the inscription on the dial, without which one cannot "tell the time."

THE September Bulletin has been withdrawn from circulation—all copies sold and will not be reprinted. Let your new subscriptions date from October—TEN cents for a YEAR!

BE a light-bearer and a leader in your home town and state. Organize an Esperanto club! For instructions about it, see October Bulletin. Twenty copies for ten cents. Subscribe—10c a year!



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 Monthly magazine, printed in English and Esperanto, with stories, news and articles on various subjects. Illustrated. Official journal of the Esperanto Association of North America. Per copy, 10 cents; six months, 50 cents; per year \$1.00.

AMERICAN ESPERANTO BOOK

Most complete text-book of Esperanto ever published. Well printed, large type, good paper. It has 76 pages on grammar and

punctuation, with examples; 114 pages lessons and exercises; 130 pages Esperanto-English and English-Esperanto vocabularies. See price list.

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The New York Herald's Paris correspondent says that Major Straub will recommend to the government the adoption of Esperanto by the army Red Cross Society, and adds with the becoming flippancy so easy to a newspaper with special cable rate: "Whether with the object of finishing off the wounded or terrifying the enemy is not known."

SYNOPSIS OF ESPERANTO

THE ALPHABET consists of twenty-eight letters: a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p r s t u v z. The sounds are as follows:

- a is like *a* in father.
- c is like *ts* in hats.
- ĉ is like *ch* in church.
- e is like *a* in fate, but not so long.
- g is like *g* in get.
- ĝ is like *g* in gem.
- h is like *ch* in lock.
- i is like *ee* in see.
- j is like *y* in yet, boy.
- j is like *z* in seizure.
- o is like *o* in roll.
- s is like *s* in so.
- ŝ is like *sh* in show.

u is like *oo* in soon.
 ŭ is like *w* in how.
 z is like *z* in zone, seize.
 r is slightly rolled or trilled.
 The remaining letters are pronounced exactly as in English: b d f h k l m n p t v.

PRONUNCIATION

Every word is pronounced exactly as spelled, and no letter is ever silent.

The Accent, stress or emphasis is placed on the syllable next to the last: BA-lo; ne-HE-la; di-li-GEN-ta.

Every vowel (a, e, i, o, u) adds a syllable: zo-o-lo-gi-o; tre-eg-e.

GRAMMATICAL SIGNS

- O the sign of the noun . . . amo=*love*
- A sign of the adjective . . . ama=*affectionate*
- La adverb . . . ame=*affectionately*
- I verb infinitive . . . skribi=*to write*
- AS verb present indicative skribas=*writes*
- IS verb past . . . skribis=*wrote*
- OS verb future . . . skribos=*will write*
- U verb imperative . . . skribu=*write*
- US verb conditional . . . skribus=*might write*
- ANT participle, present act. skribanta=*writing*
- INT participle past active skribinta=*having written*
- ONT participle future active skribonta=*about to write*
- AT participle present passive skribata=*being written*
- IT participle past passive skribita=*been written*
- OT participle future passive skribota=*about to be written*.
- J, final, indicates plural in nouns and adjectives
- N, objective case

PREFIXES

- ESPERANTO is equipped with a system of prefixes and suffixes, giving a wide range of expression to a very small vocabulary. Taking a root for the central thought, these are used to express the variations of the central idea. In EXERCISE 42, AMERICAN ESPERANTO BOOK, there are shown 53 words thus formed from one root. The only limit to such combinations is clearness.
- BO relationship by marriage; bopatro=*father-in-law*
 - ĈEF chief or principal; ĉefkuiristo=*head cook*
 - DE means from; depreni=*to take from*
 - DIS dismemberment or separation; disŝiri=*to tear apart*
 - EK to begin suddenly; ekkrii=*to cry out*
 - EKS same as English *ex*; eksprezidanto=*ex-president*
 - EL out; elabori=*to work out*; elpensi=*to think out*
 - FOR away; foriri=*to go away*
 - GE both sexes; gepatroj=*parents*
 - MAL the direct opposite; bona=*good*; malbona=*bad*
 - NE not, neutral; nebela=*not beautiful, plain*
 - RE to repeat or reverse; reiri=*to go back*; rediri=*repeat*
 - SEN without, -less; senhara=*bald*

SUFFIXES

- AD continued action; kanto=*a song*; kantado=*singing*
- Aĵ the concrete; bela=*beautiful*; belajo=*a beautiful thing*
- AR collection or group; vortaro=*a dictionary*
- Ĉj diminutive for masculine names; Vilĉjo=*Willie*
- AN inhabitant, partisan; kristano=*a Christian*
- EBL possibility; vidi=*to see*; videbla=*visible*
- EC abstract quality; bela=*beautiful*; beleco=*beauty*
- EG increased degree or size; grandega=*immense*
- EJ place of action; lerni=*to learn*; lernejo=*school*
- EM tendency, inclination; laborema=*industrious*
- ER a unit of a collection; mono=*money*; monero=*a coin*
- ESTR a leader or head; urbo=*city*; urbestro=*mayor*
- ET diminution of size or degree; vireto=*a tiny man*
- IL offspring; kato=*a cat*, katido=*a kitten*
- IG to cause to become; riĉa=*rich*; riĉigi=*to enrich*
- Iĝ to become; riĉiĝi=*to "get rich"*
- IL tool, means, instrument; kudri=*sew*; kudrilo=*a needle*
- IN the feminine; frato=*brother*; fratino=*sister*
- IND denotes worthiness; kredinda=*worthy of belief*
- ING holder for single article; cigaringo=*cigar-holder*
- IST a person occupied with; kantisto=*a singer*
- NJ diminutive for feminine names; panjo=*mamma*
- UJ that which contains; kremujo=*a cream pitcher*
- UL one having the quality of; grandulo=*a large person*