

ESPERANTO BULLETIN

SUBSCRIPTION, TEN CENTS A YEAR FIVE TO ONE ADDRESS, 25 CENTS TEN, YEARLY ONE ADDRESS, \$5.00 100, YEARLY ONE ADDRESS, \$4.50
Extra Postage in Chicago and Canada, 12 cents per year for 1 to 20 copies. Foreign postage, 12 cents per year for 1 to 10 copies
Entered as second-class matter October 29th, 1908, at the post office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Monthly American Esperantist Co., 235 East Fortieth St., Chicago May 1909 Volume 1 Number 9

THE ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGE

HERBERT M. SCOTT.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following article by Mr. Herbert M. Scott, Councilor for the Ohio Division, Esperanto Association of North America, is released for general publication on and after May 9th. Esperantists should present it to their local editors as early as possible, with an urgent request for republication in Sunday editions, May 16th. Extra copies are available on the usual conditions. Credit to the *Bulletin* on such republication is not demanded.

In view of the growing popularity of the international auxiliary language, Esperanto, despite the academic distrust expressed by certain persons in high intellectual places, it might be well for us to enter somewhat into the nature of artificial language in general, and thus clear up certain prejudices we may have entertained on the subject.

Candidates for the role of international language fall into three categories: (1) the national tongues in use at the present day, (2) the dead languages, (3) an artificial language.

In the *Century* we find an article from the pen of Brander Matthews, "English as a World-Language," which very justly estimates the chances of a national tongue becoming universal. He says that (after the fall of Latin) French became quite generally used as a second language of the educated. This was owing to a century's precedence of the French people. When the Germans and Anglo-Saxons came to the front, their language came with them, and French no longer has a lien on the role of international language. In other words, as the writer says, "The spread of a (national) language and its general acceptance depend . . . very largely upon the qualities of the race that has it for a mother-tongue, and upon the commanding position this race holds in the struggle for economic mastery." The chances of English are held to be greater than that of any other tongue at the present day, because it is expected that the Anglo-Saxon race will "swallow the earth." Till that remote and highly problematic date, then, the writer feels there can be no international language.

It is needless to take time to discuss the feasibility of the resurrection of Latin, or any other of the dead languages. No practical person can deny for a moment that their day is done.

The only definite solution of the pressing problem of international speech, then, devolves upon the artificial language. If "the futility of any artificial tongue is (so very) evident," as Mr. Brandon Matthews seems to think, we must give up the whole affair as an "idle dream of an idle day."

Now in all candor be it asked, what is there so preposterous about an artificial language in general? Reason has been enthroned in a thousand lesser fields of human activity.—how long shall language, the foundation of all civilization, be left to the blind growth of nature?

The materials were at hand. The Aryan races rule the world: the languages of the Aryan races come from one primal source—from a single parent language. The artificial international language merely aims to eliminate divergencies and get back as closely as possible to the spirit of mother Aryan—to the heart of Aryan civilization. The wonder is not that Esperanto is abroad today, but that it was not thought of earlier. But the

simplest things are generally the longest arrived at, and it takes devoted genius to evolve them.

Let us examine now, in further detail, how this has been accomplished.

The nearest approach to a *lingua franca* was Latin. Latin would be the natural basis of the artificial international language. And Latin is the basis of Esperanto—not, indeed, in difficulty and in inadequacy to modern needs, but for root ideas and root grammatical principles.

But if Latin was international, Esperanto is incomparable more so, for its first principle is internationality. The first clause of Dr. Zamenhof's Fifteenth Rule reads: "The so-called *foreign* words, i. e., those which the majority of languages have adopted from one and the same source, are used in Esperanto without change, merely conforming to the orthography of that language." And it is surprising how many words are international. It is said that of the words in Esperanto, the Frenchman recognizes 80 per cent, the Dutchman 70 per cent, the Italian 60 per cent, the Spaniard 42 per cent, the German 40 per cent, and the Slav at least 20 per cent. Most technical terms are international, and the growing number of international scientific associations and congresses, insure us that the proportion of international technical terms will be in proportionally greater.

On failure to find an international word, Dr. Zamenhof fell back first on approximation. He either took words common to two or more chief European languages, or he adopted words that belong to a single language, but are also popularly used among the other languages; or else, where the given idea was expressed differently in every language, he strove to find a word which, perhaps, bore a merely approximate meaning, or had a quite infrequent use, yet would be more or less easily recognized by every educated person. To illustrate the first class of words just mentioned, take the root "fenestr," window, which is common to French and German, and "nokt," night, which is common to Spanish and Latin. Examples of the second class of words may be found in our so-called unnaturalized foreign words, such as *eclat*, depot, corral, sauerkraut, confetti, etc. Apropos of the third class, take the Latin root "proxim." This root is common property of the European languages. In Latin it meant "next." It has in the various modern tongues divergent meanings and more or less frequent use. So the Esperanto word "proksima," near, is more or less intelligible to all European nations, although the common word for "near" differs in all European languages.

When the more direct methods failed, Dr. Zamenhof drew ordinarily from the Latin. Most botanical, zoological, and geological names are Latin. As stated previously, fundamental words are largely Latin, whether they be prepositions, conjunctions, primary adverbs, or such common terms as "father," "hand," "house," etc. Occasionally it was impracticable to draw from Latin: there were homonyms to be avoided, the orthography to be simplified, or, perhaps, some adjunct of modern life had no Latin name at all, because not extant in the age when Latin flourished. In such cases there was need to adopt words from other languages.

The above scientific processes, with other lesser ones, were followed word by word, till, in the course of years, the fundamental vocabulary of the language was built up. In illustration of the painstaking manner in which words received adoption, take a single example, the word "inko," ink. The idea "ink" has a more international representative in the root "tint," which is common to Spanish and German. But Esperanto most

carefully avoids homonyms: the root "tint" means, in Esperanto, "to jingle," hence the word for ink must be something else. One could not appeal to Latin, since it has no word for ink as we understand it today. The only alternative was to adopt a national word. The French word, "encre," could not be used, for its sound would conflict with the Esperanto for anchor "ankro." Choice thus practically narrowed down to the English word for ink, which it accordingly adopted.

With fundamental words chosen with such care, and the principles of scientific selection laid down, the future enrichment of the language has been and will be a comparatively easy matter, in fact, will follow in essentially the same lines as in the case of the national languages.

Practically the only "hand-made" work about Esperanto is its grammatical structure and system of word-building. The effort has here been to reduce things to the utmost possible simplicity. It is said that the tendency of modern European languages is away from inflection. From the fact that Esperanto has an accusative case and agreement of adjectives, it might seem at first glance that it were a somewhat highly inflected tongue. We reply that Esperanto is not an inflected tongue at all, but an agglutinative one. Every element in it (the grammatical endings are accounted independent words) is absolutely invariable. But any word in it may be joined with any other word, or series of words, provided the sense is unmistakable. We have, then, all the flexibility of the inflectional languages, together with a clarity, simplicity, and potential perfection that appertain only to a model agglutinative tongue.

From this theoretical consideration of the artificial language we can easily see that Esperanto is the most natural thing in the world at the present day. There can be no objection to it whatever in principle.

Now as the artificial language is the only solution to world-speech in sight, let us examine a few demurs that have just been lodged against Esperanto on the practical side, and determine whether there is any room for them. We refer in particular to the article of Mr. Brander Matthews already quoted above.

In the first place, Mr. Matthews casts doubt on the liability of any formal decision of a "delegation" or academy being able to decide the question and bringing the international language into general use. He contends that people in general will never learn a language for its own sake. We heartily agree with him thus far. The formal choice of the Delegation for the Choice of an International Language has had no bearing whatever on the Esperanto propaganda; since this choice was rendered but recently, and Esperanto has been a practical thing for twenty years. It is quite true people will not learn a language for its own sake. Esperanto does not *compete* with any language as a language. It simply steps into a place no other language can fill.

Mr. Matthews states that a language without a literature of its own is sadly handicapped, and says that people will naturally write in their mother-tongue, poetry in particular. Now it seems to us that the writer's whole argument is weakened by an undue stress on but one comparatively minor function of a second language. Of course, Mr. Matthews is wrong when he says Esperanto has no literature: more than fifty periodicals published all over the world, thousands of works, both original, and excellent translations from Homer, Vergil, Shakespeare, Goethe, Schiller, Moliere, Bunyan, the Grim Brothers, the Bible, etc.

But the urgent demand for an international language is in the practical fields of travel, diplomacy, correspondence, science, commerce, and world congresses, and in every field (but diplomacy). Esperanto has long since proved its practical worth, and stands unrivalled. Mr. Matthews does not touch on these all-important phases of international life.

One last fallacy of Mr. Matthews' argument we must point out. He sets it down as a historical principle, that language does not extend its ground on its own

merits, but by virtue of the "nationality" that backs them. This is unquestionably true with regard to national tongues, which spread abroad through the military prowess or commercial ability of the respective peoples which speak them. But "nationality" is the last thing we want back of a *neutral* language. A neutral language belongs to no race in particular, hence has no rivals, and its march is unhampered—save through temporary ignorance and prejudice, which defeats its own end. Where there is "nationality" back of a language aiming at world use, there will be opposition on the part of every other "nationality," and there can be no success. "Nationality" is the very thing the international language must be without. The artificial language alone is neutral, and hence the wise of all lands will hail it as the sole satisfactory solution of the question of an international language.

Mr. Matthews may deny that an artificial language is feasible. And yet whether he may realize it or not, it already *is*. He may say it is impossible. But it already exists. Merely look at the facts. At least a million people are using it today for every function an international language could be called upon to perform. There are nearly a thousand organized societies in the world today. There are more than fifty journals published in Esperanto, including commercial, literary, scientific, pacifistic, social, and religious. The London Chamber of Commerce holds regularly examinations in the languages. It has been officially approved by the World Peace Congress, the Good Templars, the United Societies of Christian Endeavor, the Red Cross, the Pan American Scientific Congress. Four world congresses have now been held in the language, with all nations represented therein, all business being conducted with perfect facility. One can today go from one end of Europe to the other, speaking no language but Esperanto. What is more, owing to the structure of the language, its essential vocabulary may be compressed into a penny key, which alone may be used for communication with a person absolutely ignorant of the language.

Thus practice refutes what in its very theory is a fallacy. In considering artificial language, we must rid ourselves of all ancient prejudices, and regard it simply as a necessary step in the onward progress of the race. The artificial language *has come*, just as development after development of incomparably less moment. We may, by our personal attitude, hasten its progress, or we may fail to hasten it; but the artificial language will be the international auxiliary language of future generations.

WORLD PROGRESS OF ESPERANTO.

An Esperanto exhibit will be a feature of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at Seattle this summer.

The World Association of Esperantist Physicians has issued a year-book of 98 pages reporting the work of the Association and containing a directory of the members. Just now the medical profession seems to be leading all others in the practical use of Esperanto.

The *American Journal of Clinical Medicine*, which is read each month by 50,000 English-speaking physicians, is now publishing lessons in Esperanto to facilitate communication with physicians of other languages.

The Fifth International Congress of Esperantists will meet at Barcelona, in Spain, September 5 to 11, 1909. Practically every nation of the world will be represented in this congress.

The Second Esperanto Congress of North America will meet at Chautauqua, New York, August 9 to 14. A few prominent Esperantists from Europe will attend and it is hoped to secure the international congress for America in 1910.

The government of Brazil awarded the recent Esperanto congress in that country a special franking privilege for their mail. A special train carried the Esperantists of Rio de Janeiro to the convention at San Paulo.

Three small European nations—Roumania, Bulgaria, and Servia—will hold an Esperanto convention in

Bucharest this summer.

Jerusalem has two Esperanto societies. There are three Esperanto journals in Spain, and forty-six classes are being taught in Barcelona, where the world congress is to be held in September.

The German Esperanto Society doubled its membership during the last year. In Saxony alone there are 3,000 Esperantists.

Even Portugal now has an Esperanto periodical. The commercial society of Warsaw has formed an Esperanto section.

There are over two thousand Esperantists in the city of Paris, and 213 societies in France.

Esperanto has six "accented" or supersigned letters. Some have objected to them, others have called them the "beautiful supersigns." Until two or three years ago the type was difficult to procure. It is now made by all leading founders, one in Paris publishing a catalogue of 89 sizes and faces of Esperanto type.

The Austrian Esperantists are urging on the ministry of government railways to print time-tables in Esperanto and to require all train officials who come in contact with foreign people to learn the language.

The Esperanto society of Bologna, Italy, is conducting much foreign correspondence for the international exposition soon to be held in that city.

EXHIBIT YOUR CORRESPONDENCE.

Every Esperantist who receives a sufficient amount of foreign correspondence in the language should make a public exhibition of it. It is still sufficiently a novelty to make a welcome adjunct or special attraction for the show-window of many high-class stores. Exhibitions carefully labelled, framed and hung in hotel, bank or post office are not only a good advertisement in themselves but freely call for a paragraph in the local paper, like the following from the *Idaho Springs* (Colorado) *Mining Gazette*:

"Mr. James Underhill has on exhibition in his window a fine collection of post cards representing his correspondence in Esperanto, the new universal language. The collection fills three windows and bears post marks of all the principal countries of Europe, Africa and South America, and forms an exhibition of unusual interest in relation to the wide spread interest which the study of the language has excited. Mr. Underhill is one of the leaders of the movement and is in regular consultation with the leaders in all sections. A class has been working in Idaho Springs for several months and has attained considerable proficiency and they desire that others may take up the work so that a sufficient company may be had to lend interest. The future success of the language in scientific and commercial work seems assured."

CONSTANT AND RAPID GROWTH.

Esperanto is probably making more rapid, firm and healthy growth at present than at any previous period. Although six other periodicals have appeared in the last year in America alone, *Amerika Esperantisto* still increases in circulation and influence. L. M. Fisher, superintendent of the mailing department of this publication, says: "We installed a new automatic addressing machine in February, with enough auxiliary equipment to cover, as we thought, all increases of circulation for at least six months. It is now evident that we must provide further equipment by May 1st."

STREET CAR ADVERTISING.

Esperanto meetings have become so important a feature in Pittsburgh that the street car companies permit the display of advertising bulletins on the front of the cars. Thus at one leap Esperanto rises to the commercial dignity of ball games and amusement parks!

SYNOPSIS OF ESPERANTO GRAMMAR

THE ALPHABET consists of twenty-eight letters: a b c ĉ d e f g ĝ h ĥ i j k l m n o p r s ŝ t u ŭ 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 *e* in *fate*, but not so long. g is like *g* in *get*. ĝ is like *g* in *gem*. ĥ is like *ch* in *loch*. i is like *ee* in *see*. j is like *y* in *yet*, *boy*. ĵ 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*
- E 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; ellabori=*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*

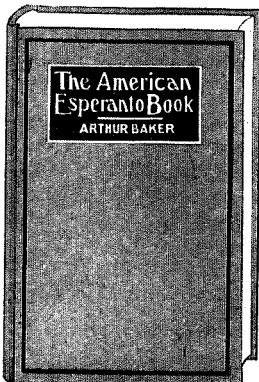
SUFFIXES

- AD continued action; kanto=*a song*; kantado=*singing*
- Aj the concrete; bela=*beautiful*; belaĵo=*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*
- ID 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*

Text-Book and Magazine

THE AMERICAN ESPERANTO BOOK

Is probably the best-known of more than twenty English text-books of Esperanto. Prepared especially for home study, it is also used by many clubs and classes. Contains grammar, lessons, exercises and large vocabularies. Cloth, 320 pages, \$1.00. A copy in paper cover free with subscription to the magazine. Cloth-bound copy, with magazine a year, \$1.50.



AMERIKA ESPERANTISTO

Is a monthly magazine in Esperanto and English, devoted to news and propaganda of the Esperanto movement, with a department of help and criticisms, literature, etc. Organ of the Esperanto Association of North America. Per year, one dollar, with free premium copy of American Esperanto Book. One year, with book in cloth binding, \$1.50.

THE AMERICAN ESPERANTIST COMPANY CHICAGO
 Publishers and Importers of Esperanto Books 235 E. Fortieth St.

ESPERANTO AND MEDICINE.

In a preface to the Year-Book of the World Association of Esperanto Physicians, Dr. Zamenhof, author of the language and himself a member of the profession, says:

"Medicine belongs to those sciences and professions which, more than all others, have a character purely 'human.' The doctor has before him always only a human being who needs his help, the tribe or race to which the patient belongs does not interest him. Not only foreigners, but often the direct military enemies of his nation turn with confidence to the physician, and he has no right to refuse or even to apportion his help according to any national sympathy or antipathy.

"Therefore in no other class of men, ordinarily, do the purely humanitarian ideals find so many partisans as among the physicians. And the most fundamental of those ideals, a reciprocal comprehension among mankind, finds always many friends among the physicians.

"Many patients have themselves often felt how important it is that medical help should know no linguistic barriers. The removal of those barriers is the aim of the World Association of Esperantist Physicians. (*Tutmonda Esperanta Kuracista Asocio*). The Association will bring great help to the medical science, to doctors and to patients."

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

An incalculable amount of international correspondence on all sorts of subjects is carried on in Esperanto. *Amerika Esperantisto*, official organ of the Esperanto Association of North America, publishes each month a list of addresses of Europeans and others who wish to exchange letters and post cards. Esperantists who live in foreign countries say that they are overwhelmed with correspondence from America when their addresses have appeared in this magazine. One Japanese student wrote that it cost him fifty yen for stamps along to reply to mail received. Only one foreign Esperantist has yet been discovered who could "get away" with such a mass of American letters and cards. Prof. Louis Sepulveda Cuadra, Casilla 1679, Santiago, Chile, has never yet flown the signal of distress. He has probably answered over 20,000 communications in Esperanto.

PHILATELIC ESPERANTO.

Mr. Julian Park, of Williamstown, Mass., is the publisher of a journal in Esperanto and English, "Philatelic Esperanto," devoted to the interests of collectors of stamps, illustrated cards, etc. This little journal possesses a real literary value and is doing a good work for Esperanto in its particular field. Subscriptions are not accepted, it being published for free distribution among the members of the "Esperantistaj Kolektantoj de la Mondo," of which organization it is the official organ. This organization which was founded in July, 1905, has as its objects the propaganda of Esperanto among collectors and furtherance of their interests by means of the international language. Thanks to the energy and devotion of Mr. Park, it has acquired a large membership, many countries being represented. Negotiations are now in progress for the adoption of "Tra la Filatelio," a collectors' journal published entirely in Esperanto, as the official organ, and it is expected that this step will add greatly to the strength and prestige of the society.

The chief features of Philatelic Esperanto are the literary contributions of Mr. Park, in prose and verse, some of which have had the honor of being copied and highly praised in other journals. These prove that Mr. Park is a writer of ability.

One of the results of the work of this association is the formation of a large class in Esperanto among the members of the Chicago Philatelic Society. The "Collectors' Journal," one of the leading publications of this country devoted to collecting, publishes a regular Esperanto department and is doing much to interest collectors in "la afero." "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News," a prominent collectors' weekly, was one of the first publications in America to give publicity to Esperanto, giving space to a series of articles by Mr. R. H. Geoghegan, the pioneer of Esperanto in England and this country.

Esperanto offers more real and immediate advantages to collectors than to perhaps any other class, and as a rule they are quick to recognize this. The active propaganda now carried on in their ranks is doing good work for Esperanto.

Mr. Park's work among collectors is of great value to the Esperanto movement and is worthy of encouragement by Esperantists.