

# ESPERANTO BULLETIN

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## YOUR LAST BULLETIN.

When we began publication of the *Bulletin* one year ago we pledged it to the support of the Fifth International Congress which, we soon afterwards learned, would be held in Spain. We have now published it for one year at the nominal price of ten cents, and though it has a circulation of several thousand, it has meant to us a loss financial.

Our own desire is to discontinue it, but we do not feel that we have the right to do this without at least consulting those who have worked with us to establish it. We are willing to donate the time and labor of our office force, provided we do not actually fall short of printing and postage expenses. Therefore we suggest that all who have found the *Bulletin* of value during the past year, and who think it's worth pushing, and who don't want it discontinued, send us a postal card or letter, saying *how many* copies of each issue you'll take, at the bundle price of five cents each per year. *Do not send money.* If, before our Mr. Baker returns from Europe, you have pledged a sufficient quantity to offer encouragement, he'll write a special number covering the Barcelona Congress, and the *Bulletin* will continue until the Washington Congress. If not, measures will be taken to reimburse all subscribers whose subscriptions have six months or more to run, and this number will be the last.

The contents of the current number are written by William Mann, of London, and copied with his permission from *La Londona Gazeto*.

## WORLD-PROGRESS.

One of the most prominent characteristics of the present age is the spirit of Internationalism. The Railway, the Steamship, the Post, the Telegraph, linking together place after place all over the earth, have practically annihilated the barriers of space and time. It is hardly more difficult for the man of today to travel from London to Calcutta, than it was for his ancestor in the 18th century to get from London to York. With this falling of physical barriers between communities and nations, there has come to men a consciousness of wider deeds, of more spacious activities, of vaster aspirations. A merely national outlook no longer suffices. Science, marching on daily to new conquests, has made the whole world its laboratory. Commerce, incessantly ambitious of new markets, has planted its flag even in the uttermost parts of the earth. Politics, under the stress and complication of modern economic conditions, is fast becoming a world-science. In a word, man is becoming aware of the duties and possibilities of world-citizenship.

### The Barrier of Language.

But right here arises a grave difficulty. The Briton, having ventured across the Channel with the spirit of international fraternity aflame within him, finds his friendly advances checked by the disconcerting wall of a foreign tongue. The Frenchman, attracted by love of the "Entente Cordiale" to London, finds indeed a hearty handshake and warm hospitality, but must also remain deaf and dumb so far as his English brother is concerned. And Scientists, Doctors, Engineers, Laborers, meeting together in solemn international congress for the weal of the world, with matter of real import to present and discuss, also find their efforts seriously hampered and their gatherings disagreeably and quite unnecessarily lengthened by linguistic differences and the consequent tedious cross-translations. The British Tourist roams over Europe, admires the scenery, edifies natives with a few ludicrous laboriously acquired smatterings of French or German or Italian, religiously sends off his picture postcards, and returns

prondly content, with his picturesquely labelled portmanteaux full of knickknacks. He has seen much; at your request he is voluble with description, in fact, all the eye can teach him he has learnt; but ask him what he knows, by actual personal intercourse, of the real thoughts and feelings of the native folk he has met, and he will be blankly mute. The meagre equipment of French and German furnished by year-long study at school has hardly sufficed for anything more ambitious than occasional discomfiting passages with booking-clerk or gendarme, or merely served to entertain some grinning polyglot waiter.

No thinking man or woman but will readily admit that so long as this Barrier of Speech exists, all international progress, all international arbitration and cooperation will and must be considerably hindered.

### What is the Remedy?

Obviously some common medium of communication is needed. But what shall it be? No national language has any chance of being adopted as the "key-language" of the world. What Englishman would agree to give to France the enormous commercial advantage which would accrue were French the language used throughout the world for international business purposes? And what nation would consent to English being the favored tongue? It is evident that national pride and jealousy preclude the adoption of any modern language, and Latin and Greek are far too difficult and hopelessly inadequate for modern needs. Clearly, what is wanted is a *neutral* auxiliary language, a second language for all, easily learnt by all nationalities, and capable of growth and adaptation to all the needs of human intercourse. Truly a thing to be desired, you reply; but a dream, a Utopia! impracticable and unrealisable! By no means; that dream is already realised, an actual fact, in Esperanto.

## ESPERANTO.

Esperanto is an auxiliary international language created by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, a Polish oculist born at Bielostock, in 1859. It is not intended to supersede any national language; Esperanto is NOT A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE. It aims to be merely an international auxiliary language, A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR ALL, a linguistic code for the facilitation of intercourse throughout the civilized world. Since the time of Leibnitz, in 1666, many attempts have been made to construct such a language; but until the presentation of Esperanto to the world by Dr. Zamenhof in 1887, none of these systems succeeded in passing beyond a merely tentative stage.

### A Living Language.

Such, however, has not been the fate of Esperanto. Esperanto is no longer in the experimental stage of a mere linguistic project. It is already a living language, in daily use by hundreds of thousands of people in all parts of the world. Based upon those root-words which are common to the greatest number of languages, it is easily acquired by Europeans and Americans; while the simplicity and regularity of its grammar, its ingenious word-economising and memory-easing system of affixes make its acquisition of equal facility for Asiatics. An Englishman is able to recognize at sight about 60 per cent of the vocabulary, a Frenchman, Spaniard or Italian about 70 per cent, a German over 40 per cent. Four months' study for half an hour a day should make any person of average intelligence a proficient Esperantist. All who have heard the language sung, or spoken or learnt it for themselves, confess it has about it nothing of artificiality. Not merely does it answer perfectly all the ordinary everyday purposes for which an international language is needed, but its harmony, its richness and flexibility of word and phrase, render it eminently fitted alike for the subtle shades of literary

expression or the complicated technicalities of precise scientific thought.

**Progress of Esperanto.**

The great rapidity with which Esperanto societies are increasing in number, their wide geographical diffusion, the diversity of their scope and composition, are irrefutable evidence that Esperanto is fast becoming a prominent and indispensable feature in the world's international life. Esperanto is *already an undeniable fact*, and is undoubtedly destined to become in the not far distant future one of the most important factors of world-progress.

What are the facts? At the end of December, 1907, the *total number of Esperanto groups and societies* throughout the world was 753; on June 5, 1908, it was 928; on June 25, it was more than 980. On January 1, 1909, the total was 1,240, and on June 1, 1909, the number registered had risen to well over 1,500, an advance of close on 800 within two years.

It is interesting to note the *national distribution* of these societies. Of the total recorded, Europe accounts for 1,155; America comes next with 276; Asia contributes 30 (6 of them in Japan, and about 8 in India); Africa follows with 17; Australia and the Philippines furnish the rest.

Among *individual countries*, the following lead the way: France 233 groups, Germany and England 188 each, the United States 191, Spain 100, Austria 86, Russia 59, Switzerland 57, and Belgium 43. The most marked increase has been in U. S. A., where within the last 12 months over 125 new groups have been founded, in Germany, with 115 new groups, and in Russia, where as many as 10 new societies were started in one month. Indeed, all over the world groups are springing up so rapidly that it is impossible to follow their progress.

**The Spirit of Esperantism.**

Whence comes this wonderful self-diffusing power of Esperanto? By what spell does it thus kindle the enthusiasms and enlist the activities of hundreds and thousands of workers all over the world? Not in the language alone, simple and efficient as it is, lies the secret of this all-compelling power. No; Esperanto is symbolic of something higher than itself: the instinctive longing of humanity for universal peace, goodwill and brotherhood among the nations. For this Esperanto stands; for the realization of this high ideal Esperantists work. This all-pervading spirit it is which is the source of the tremendous enthusiasm that characterizes every Esperanto Congress. Where Esperanto comes, strife ceases; and men and women of the most widely differing temperaments and nationalities, fired by the joy of co-operation in a noble purpose, become fast friends and comrades in an army of peace and progress, co-helpers in the conscious evolution of mankind.

But Esperanto appeals not only to the idealist; it has value also for the most practical of men. To the Tourist, to the Merchant, to the Scientist, to the Worker, to the Soldier, to the Sailor, to all Esperanto offers something of interest.

**Esperanto Consulates and Tourist-Bureaus.**

Anyone who wishes to convince himself of the practical use of Esperanto to the tourist cannot do better than avail himself of the service of the Universal Esperanto Association at Geneva, a swiftly developing organization which has been established to facilitate the use of Esperanto for the purposes of commerce and travel. In the latest Official Year-book of this society he will find particulars of upwards of 400 Esperanto Consulates in various towns all over the world, and if he will put himself in communication with these in the different places he intends to visit, he will find all along his route Esperantists ready to help him in many ways, who will make his stay abroad much more entertaining than if he had spent his time in the manner of the ordinary monolingual tourist. Learn Esperanto and try this during your next summer holidays! These Consulates are also of increasing value for business men in extending their markets, in collecting debts, etc., etc.

**Esperanto and Commerce.**

From time immemorial, the trader has ever been a traveller. Alike in the primitive barterings of savage

tribes, and the complex transactions of modern times, commerce has always been largely international. With the advent of steam and electricity, and the consequent facility of transport, this international character of trade has become more marked, until to-day there is hardly a firm of importance which is not in business relations with other lands. To meet the needs of intercommunication with buyers and sellers abroad, heads of firms—far too busy to learn for themselves the four or five languages hitherto necessary—are compelled to maintain at considerable expense a special staff of foreign correspondents. This method, practical as it may seem, has its disadvantages. Usually the interpreting clerk is a foreigner, with little or no expert knowledge of the business whose transactions he is conducting. Much time and money is wasted in the duplication and overlapping of correspondence and of advertising in the different languages of the countries dealt with. *Esperanto is going to change all that.* No longer will the employer be compelled to be satisfied with the more or less precise translations of his foreign clerks, no more will he have to divulge to him valuable commercial secrets, he will have all his foreign correspondence expeditiously done in one auxiliary language, will write his confidential letters for himself in Esperanto. Instead of having costly multi-lingual catalogues printed, he will publish one Esperanto catalogue, which will make his wares known in any country he pleases.

Wide-awake business men in every country are already beginning to see the possibilities of Esperanto as a commercial medium. In DRESDEN alone, some 160 business houses use Esperanto for correspondence purposes, and the following names of world-famous firms should induce every merchant to consider whether he should not forthwith see about introducing Esperanto into his mail department.

**Business Firms Use Esperanto.**

The following are a few of the commercial houses that have used Esperanto for correspondence or advertising: Thos. Cook and Sons, Stephen's Inks, London; Blickensderfer, Remington, Hammond, Oliver, Yost Type-writer Cos., Gaumont and Co., Paris; Fry's Cocoa, Colman's Mustard, Zotos, Les Grands Magasins du Louvre, la Samaritaine, le Bon Marche, Grand Bazar de la rue de Rennes, Paris; Thos. De la Rue and Co., London; North-Eastern Railway Co., Consett Iron Co., etc., etc.

**Specialist Societies.**

Another proof of the practical value of Esperanto is the increase of Professional and Specialists Esperanto Societies. These embrace all sorts of activities, Politics, Ethics, Religion, Art, Science, Industry, Commerce, Sport, etc., although Esperanto—merely the *medium* for intercommunication—is of course itself as natural as English or any other language. In December, 1907, there existed sixty-nine such societies; now there are over 130, and the number is constantly growing. Of these, thirty-four are religious or political in scope, twenty scientific or artistic, twenty-seven industrial and commercial. Of especial note are:—*The International Scientific Association*, with a membership including many names famous throughout the scientific world. This Association has its regular monthly organ, the "*Internacia Scienca Revuo*," published in Esperanto at Geneva.

*The International Union of Ethical Societies*, a body of thinkers of growing international influence and importance, is also making use of Esperanto.

*The International Association of Esperanto Doctors*, (I.E.K.A.), with headquarters at Lodz in Poland, and members in every important country in the world, also publishes an Esperanto monthly, "*Voco de l'Kuracisto*," in which doctors may read the latest information concerning medical progress at home and abroad. Then *the Y.M.C.A. groups* have their special magazine, "*Dia Regno*" ("*The Kingdom of God*"), published at Barmen in Germany; and *the World-Association of Christian Endeavor Societies*, embracing thousands of members in the United States and on the Continent, has adopted Esperanto as the official language for its international communications, and issues from Geneva a special monthly in the language. The needs of a growing as-

sociation of teachers and professors are met by the "*International Pedagogical Review*," published in Austria with the collaboration of a staff drawn from nineteen different nationalities. There are also Esperanto Societies for Sailors, Soldiers, Railwaymen, Red-Cross Nurses, Freemasons, Catholics, Socialists, Suffragettes, Chess-Players, Stamp-Collectors, etc., etc. In fact, there is hardly a line of thought and activity where Esperanto is not or might not be of use. The advantages of Esperanto for these international bodies, for the frequent congress they hold, and for friendly correspondence and co-operation, are so obvious, that within a decade or so the language must inevitably be adopted by all who are interested in international movements of any kind.

**The Esperanto Press.**

The vitality of the Esperanto movement is also shown by the constant appearance of new Esperanto periodicals. At the end of 1907 there were forty-four Esperanto gazettes, most of them monthlies. There are now upwards of eighty-five. There is hardly a country in the world without some Esperanto Magazine, and practically every month one hears of some new publication. Besides these independent periodicals, in many countries there appear regular Esperanto notes in the local press. In Great Britain alone, more than fifteen weeklies publish such columns regularly. The organ of the movement in the United Kingdom is *The British Esperantist*, published monthly (price 3½d. post free) by the British Esperanto Association.

**Esperanto Literature.**

The aesthetically-minded skeptic usually inquires with an air of finality: "But can you show us a literature?" Let him take up any catalogue of Esperanto works, and see for himself. In Esperanto are to be found already the beginnings of that "Weltliteratur" foreseen by Goethe. Since the first Esperanto book appeared in 1887, several thousands of books and pamphlets have been published in the language; excellent translations of literary masterpieces of many nations: Shakespeare's "Hamlet," Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris," Gogol's "Revizor," "Ecclesiastes" and the Psalms and the Proverbs from the Hebrew, La Chanson de Roland from the French, Vergil's Aeneid from the Latin, parts of Homer's Iliad, Schiller's "Die Rauber," many of Andersen's Fairy Tales, etc.; a host of valuable articles and pamphlets on technical subjects, original novels and short stories. Many delicious literary masterpieces, written in out-of-the-way languages and dialects, which otherwise would be entirely lost to the world, by means of Esperanto are brought from their hiding-places and preserved with all their native charm of quality and style. Eminent critics and scholars who have given the matter attention agree that Esperanto, with its flexibility and freedom of syntax, is unsurpassable as a medium for translation. Here are the opinions of some of the world's thinkers on Esperanto:—

**Some Opinions of Note.**

Leo Tolstoy, the world-renowned author and philanthropist, himself an Esperantist, said: "The sacrifices which every person in the civilised world has to make in learning Esperanto are so small, and the results attained so immense, that one can hardly refuse to make the effort."

Max Muller, the eminent philologist, said: "I have studied Esperanto, and I place it far above its rivals."

Sir. Wm. Ramsay, K.C.B.: "It is almost incredible that the whole essential grammar of a language can be given in a paragraph; but it is none the less true of Esperanto."

The Rev. J. E. B. Mayor, Professor of Latin in Cambridge University, in a speech made in Esperanto after a month or two's study of the language, during the Esperanto Congress held in Cambridge in August, 1907, said: "As a first step to other languages, one so simple, so uniform, with such a richness of vowel-sounds as Esperanto, will be invaluable, especially for English people. At five, children should learn Esperanto, and then pass to French, Latin, German, Greek, in this order."

The German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II.: "Plurality of language is a hindrance to the important movement

towards solidarity between the nations, a movement whose development is daily becoming more clearly visible to all thinking men. It is just on account of that plurality of language that the leaders of the movement, at their international congresses, are unable to communicate freely one with another."

Sir Joseph Ward, ex-premier of New Zealand, speaking at a high-school break-up in 1906, drew attention to the advisability of introducing Esperanto into the State schools. "He made a point of fact that he had recently attended a great International Congress at which there were 130 delegates from all parts of the world. Men from China had to have interpreters who understood French and Chinese; those from Austria required men who understood Austrian and French; those from Cuba had to have interpreters who understood Spanish and French, and so on. Those who did not understand French missed a great deal of what was being said. He was of opinion that Esperanto should be introduced into the curriculum of the State schools."

Prof. Walter Rippmann: "In commerce, in many branches of scientific and technical work, the general use of such an international language would be a great boon. It would do away with the necessity of studying the phrases of commercial correspondence peculiar to each language, and would put an end to the confusion which arises from the great variety in the terminology of the learned. . . . I cannot myself claim to possess a thorough knowledge of Esperanto. I have, however, taken pains to compare it with many of its rivals, and it seems to be the simplest and most promising of all artificial languages."

Israel Zangwill: "There is no royal road to learning, but what can be done to smooth and shorten the road is done—it must be confessed—in Esperanto."

Felix Moseheles, the well-known leader of the Peace Movement in England, and President of the London Esperanto Club: "Esperanto has come, and my conviction is: It has come to stay!"

**Official Recognition of Esperanto.**

Of late, official recognition and approval of Esperanto by public bodies has become increasingly frequent. An official representative of the *Belgian Government* was present at the Esperanto Congress at Cambridge in 1907, with the result that Esperanto was introduced as a subject into the Military Schools. At the Esperanto Congress in Dresden in 1908—where 42 nationalities for a week transacted business and organized entertainments exclusively in Esperanto—the Governments of both the *United States* and *Japan* were represented. In the latter country, where a strong society exists at Tokio and publishes its own Esperanto magazine monthly, Count Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has accepted the presidency of the Japanese Esperanto Association, and in a public letter recommended his fellow-countrymen to take up Esperanto, which he calls the Gospel of the World.

More than 26 International Congresses have recommended or admitted the use of Esperanto for their transactions. The *Pan-American Scientific Congress*, semi-governmental in character, in session at Santiago de Chile in January, 1909, declared its approval of Esperanto as a neutral international language, and recommended its introduction into all lower-grade schools in *America*. It also recommended that the next meeting of the Congress, in the United States in 1912, the Government of that country should invite the nations of the world to send delegates for the express purpose of making an official world adoption of Esperanto as the international language. The Statistical Department of the *Brazilian Government*, in connection with the National Exhibition at Rio de Janeiro in 1908, recently published a 50-page pamphlet in Esperanto, containing much valuable information as to the commercial resources and social development of the Republic.

In *FRANCE*, Municipal Authorities are fostering the study of Esperanto by means of substantial grants to the funds of local groups. In 1907, a bill was brought before the French Chamber proposing the admission of Esperanto as an optional subject to the programmes of Government schools. The Minister of War encourages

the teaching of the language in Cadet schools, and there are also many classes in the regiments of the line. Esperanto has been taken up enthusiastically—and also in several other countries—by Red-Cross Societies, Public Authorities, Scientific Associations, Chambers of Commerce everywhere are helping the movement. In Lille, in the Government Schools, 1,200 children are taught Esperanto an hour a week.

In the UNITED STATES, Esperanto was practically unknown until 1905. Now there is hardly a State nor a territory in the Union where Esperantists are not to be found in hundreds and in some cases thousands. In schools, colleges and universities regular courses of study in Esperanto have been started. It is taught in the University of Wisconsin. It has been added to the curriculum at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Clark University, and the Pittsburgh High School. Dr. D. O. S. Lowell, the headmaster of Roxbury Latin School at Boston, the famous preparatory school for Harvard University, is a fervent Esperantist. Professor William James, the world-famous psychologist at Harvard University, recommends the study of Esperanto, and all over the States considerable interest is being manifested by educational authorities.

In ENGLAND, the *National Union of Teachers* has included Esperanto in its commercial examinations. The *London Chamber of Commerce* holds examinations in Esperanto, and it is taught in many of the evening commercial centres under the *London County Council*. It is one of the subjects for the *Oxford Senior Local Examinations*. An H. M. Inspector, after listening to an Esperanto lesson at one of the evening classes held in London, remarked: "It is quite evident that the best way of learning English grammar is to study Esperanto under a good teacher." Major General Baden-Powell recommends all his *Boy Scouts* to learn Esperanto, and many patrols have taken up the study. The *Postmaster-General* has authorized the use of Esperanto in telegrams within the United Kingdom on an equal footing with modern European languages, at the ordinary rate. Esperanto is used officially in the Tourist and Health Resorts Department of the *New Zealand Government*.

In GERMANY, at Dresden, where the Esperanto Congress was held in 1908, the King of Saxony was official patron of the Congress, and the Corporation showed practical interest and co-operation in the matter by making a donation of £250 to the Congress expenses, and placed the municipal tramways free of charge at the disposal of the Congressists. Some sixty officials on the steamers of the Saxon-Bohemian Steamship Company,

which yearly takes hundreds of foreign visitors through the famous "Saxon Switzerland," acting on official instructions have learnt Esperanto. Many teachers are studying the language, which is being introduced into many commercial and technical public schools.

In SPAIN, King Alfonso has consented to be honorary president of the Fifth International Esperanto Congress, which is to be held at Barcelona this September. The municipal authorities are extending to the Congressists the same warm welcome and substantial pecuniary support as did the German authorities in Dresden.

**The Value of Esperanto to You.**

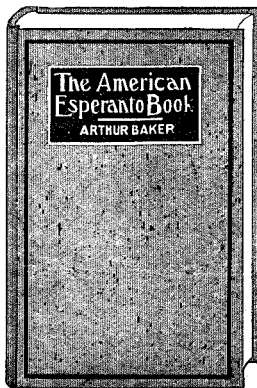
In face of these striking facts, what are YOU going to do? Do not say that this matter is of no import to you. In Esperanto and Esperantism there is something of interest and utility for all men. Esperanto can be of use to you, be your purpose vast or small. Do you merely want a hobby? Learn Esperanto, and you will find postcard correspondence with 40 nationalities a most fascinating pastime. Are you an idealist? Work for one of the most glorious ideals in the world, the mutual intelligibility of the human race, brotherhood and peace among all nations. Are you a Scientist? Learn Esperanto, become a member of the International Scientific Association, and you will help to quicken immeasurably the progress of scientific research and achievement. Are you a Politician? Use voice and pen to recommend the use of Esperanto in international relations, and help to make possible a real practical "Entente Cordiale" with the whole world. Are you a Teacher? Learn Esperanto—ere long you may be having to teach it!—join the International Teachers' Association, and correspond with colleagues in all parts of the world. Are you a Motorist, an Aeronaut? Just as your car or your flyer annihilates for you the barriers of space, so will Esperanto lay low the mental barriers between the countries you visit. Are you a Suffragette? The Feminist movement is already an international one; Esperanto will give it greater solidarity and effectiveness. Are you a Social Reformer? In Esperanto workers and thinkers have a mighty means of co-operation for the weal of the world. Are you an Author or Journalist? Learn Esperanto, and write for an international public. Are you a Doctor? Join the International Medical Association, and get in touch with the latest medical progress abroad. Are you a member of any International Body, a Pacifist, an Ethicist, a Theosophist? Many prominent men and women in all these movements have already become Esperantists. *Come thou and do likewise.*

WILLIAM MANN.

# 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.

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