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ESPERANTO: A FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR THE NON-LINGUISTIC

By R. W. HAMILTON, M.A., M.Litt.,
Head Master, Hemsworth Grammar School

To understand a foreign people nothing can readily take the place of knowing that people's language thoroughly, of being well acquainted with its literature, and of having a fairly lengthy period of residence in the country itself. But what a small percentage of our children ever reach that stage in adult life, after years spent in endeavouring to master the elements of one or at most two foreign languages! And there are so many foreign languages to learn!

An International Auxiliary Language is the only solution to this problem. Many are the solutions that have been and are being put forward, but only one has been tried, tested fully, and found completely successful—Esperanto! It has no competitor, nor is it likely to have. It is not theory but a fact. It is a living language, spoken, written and read, all over the world, by many peoples of vastly different languages. Esperantists can be found in practically every country in the world.

The purpose of this article, however, is not to describe the Esperanto Movement nor discuss the tremendous benefit its universal adoption would bring to the world, but rather to call the attention of teachers, particularly those in our new secondary schools, to the merits of Esperanto as a serious subject of study both for themselves and their pupils. It is well known and admitted on all sides that for many children, despite the educational value and the excellent quality of modern teaching, the time spent in attempting to learn even one foreign language is time practically wasted. Even in our Grammar Schools there is a large number of children whose progress in foreign languages is very disproportionate to the effort involved. For the vast majority of the children in the New Secondary Schools, learning a foreign language, even French or Spanish, is very largely a waste of time. But it is possible to teach them Esperanto, and in so doing to gain for these children nearly all the benefits their more linguistic fellows get from a study of national foreign languages. Again and again, educationists who have investigated the benefits to be gained from a study of Esperanto have pointed out the following advantages of such a course of study. They claim that Esperanto

(1) helps all language study
(2) simplifies the teaching of grammar
(3) gives a better knowledge of English
(4) facilitates the learning of other languages
(5) makes language study attractive
(6) trains the logical faculty
(7) broadens the outlook
(8) is an aid and not a new burden.

With such advantages claimed one is tempted to ask why Esperanto has not been welcomed into our schools with open arms. It sounds like the subject all teachers have been longing for. As most teachers who have studied the subject seriously are keenly enthusiastic, it seems that the answer is that most practising teachers are like the man "who cannot see the wood for the trees". They are immersed in their daily work of teaching the subjects they have been taught. The problems of their professional teaching exercise their minds and leave them with little time—and in some cases, no inclination—
to think whether the problem of teaching foreign languages to a large number of apparently non-linguistic children could not be solved in some other way than improved technique in the teaching of the traditional foreign languages of our schools. There is, too, the natural tendency to disbelieve that a language with such apparently extravagant claims could really be a cure for our language teaching difficulties.

To illustrate the above claims by reference to the language itself would be too long a job for such a short article as this must be, but the claims are well worth investigating. To quote but one supporting statement, a manifesto signed by 96 educationists from 28 countries in a Conference at the League of Nations Palace in Geneva states:

"It is our experience that a knowledge of Esperanto has developed in our pupils a more real knowledge and appreciation of Geography and World History, and a greater and more sympathetic interest in foreign peoples and their customs, literature, and art: also in the peace of the world and the League of Nations. This has been aided by the interchange with children in other lands of correspondence, illustrated postcards, and drawings: by the reading of international magazines in Esperanto, and the study of literature in various countries in the language. Pupils are able to engage in correspondence after only a few months of study. This correspondence is not confined to any one country, it being a common experience for pupils in a single school to have correspondents in many countries."

Obviously this contact with those in other lands makes Geography and History more living, and develops a sense of world-citizenship and an interest in world affairs. Esperanto leads through international understanding to international friendship.

The experience of more than ten years of teaching Esperanto to children from 10½ to 18½, and also to adults, has led to the conclusion that the claims made for Esperanto are substantially true. There is, however, an old saying, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating". It would be well worth while, therefore, for all teachers actively interested in this problem of teaching our children foreign languages to write to the Education Secretary, British Esperanto Association, 140 Holland Park Avenue, London, W.11, and ask for further information. If desired he would be willing to visit any school and demonstrate by actual lessons that these claims for Esperanto are well founded.

Reprinted, by kind permission of the Editor, from The Higher Education Journal, Nov., 1945.

ESPERANTO AND THE LABOUR PARTY

It is hoped that a resolution favourable to Esperanto will be discussed at the Whitweek Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth.

Owing to the pressure of business, it is one thing to get a resolution on to the Agenda, but another to get it to the point of discussion. In order to get the backing of as many constituency parties as possible, Esperantist members of the Labour Party are asked to communicate now with Mr. A. Fisher, 15 Whitecliff Crescent, Parkstone, Dorset. He would also be glad to have the names of any M.P.'s who are Esperantists, or favourable.

S.B.E.T.

S.B.E.T. (Society of British Esperantist Teachers) (Sec., Miss Nixon, 183 Woodlands Park Road, Birmingham 30), now has 176 members. All Esperantist teachers should join. Minimum subscription: 1/-; The Bulletin is full of up-to-date information, and is itself well worth this nominal sum.

S.B.E.T. ANNUAL MEETING.—This is on Saturday, 5th January, at City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, Drury Lane, W.C.2, at 10.30 (members only). Open meetings: 2.0 and 5.0 Subject: "The Present Situation" as regards Teachers, Schools, Schoolbooks, Magazine, School Certificate, Teachers' Societies, Education Authorities, Ministry of Education, International Relations (schools in other countries, TAGE, TJ0), UNESCO, etc. These should be of unusual interest.

A QUESTIONNAIRE has been issued by SBET, asking for details of classes to school children and adults. As regards children, details asked for are: Name of School? If in school-time, voluntary or compulsory? Age of pupils? Sex? Number in class? Class periods? Books used (if any)? Correspondence abroad? Members of TJ0? Subscribers to TJ0 Bulletin? All teachers of school classes please reply: the information will be exceedingly valuable.

T.J.O.—The situation of TJ0 in Britain (see p. 93) will be discussed in a meeting in 1946. Meantime Mr. J. Heath, 74 Dales View Road, Ipswich, is acting as sec., helped by Mr. A. Gordon, 28 Holshouse Road, Kilmarnock, for Scotland, and Miss Rees, Derwydod, Seven Sisters Road, Neath, for Wales. Subscription (4/-, payable to Miss Rees), includes the magazines Juna Vivo and T.J.O. Bulteno.
ESPERANTO STUDY-CIRCLES

Probably the weakest spot in Esperanto life is the lack of really competent (a) teachers, and (b) group-leaders. Many classes and groups die every year, killed by incompetent leadership. Good will is not enough. These are skilled jobs. Those who are most competent are the most ready to learn more.

From May 1943 to July 1945 we published articles on the Teaching of Esperanto. As far as space permitted, these dealt systematically and practically with every phase of the subject. Many letters of appreciation were received. Anyone wishing to become a good all-round teacher is advised to master the principles and hints there given, and apply them.

It was intended to follow these with help for secretaries and group leaders, but as only two persons expressed a desire for this, they are postponed. Perhaps, when more groups get going, these hints may appear later.

Meantime, there has appeared a booklet:
"La Esperantista Studrondo: Konsiloj por Studvidantoj", published by Norvega Esperanta Ligo, written by A. Hasle and obtainable from B.E.A. for 6d. (postage 1d.).

Though it is not concerned with classes or groups, but deals with something between the two—study groups for 7-8 persons—both teachers and group leaders will find in it some golden words. It says more in its 24 pages than many a pretentious volume of learned fog. Here are a few selections. But get the book.

Elpensu laborplanon, kaj guidu la rondon laŭ tiu plano.

Ĉio povas esti interesa, se oni ĝin prezentas en formo interesa.

Ĉiu pensas jene: "Ne gravas, se mi alvenos malfre, ĉar la kunveno ja ne komenciĝos akurate". Tute ne permusas tiajn penojn.

Estas absolute tro malfacile por homaj majstroj de lingo ĉiun samtempe, pensante en unu kaj parola ĉiuj akruĉante.

Eĉ inter malnovaj Esperantistoj ekzistas homoj, kiuj legas kaj parolas tre mallure, faras paŭzojn en malfesta loko, eraras, kaltas por ripeti, balbutas, kaj eligas strangojn kaj malklarajn sonojn. Ĉiu vi konas la tipon?

Ni lernu vortojn tiel bone, ke ni neniam plu bezonas serĉi ĝin en vortaro aŭ dubi pri ĝia signifo. Unu vorto el la kapo valoras pli ol dek en la kajoj.

Se la lernanto bone kompresas la enhavon de la leĝafo, estas superfime, ĉiu enuige, tradukado ĉiun frazon.

Mulan tradukado, ĉu skribado ĉu buŝado, mi rekomendas nur al tre lertaj Esperantistoj.

Por homencanto oni elekto facilan libron, kiu konvenas al tiu lingva nivelon.

Ĉiu lernu la alfabeton parkere, kaj atingu centprocentan ĝuston ĉe la prononco de ĉiu sono.

Neniam legu ciferojn naclingve, meze de teksto Esperantana.

Lernu melodiojn, se eble ĉu tri-volatajn. [For example, Kantaro Esperanta, Section IX, and the innumerable parlisto arrangements obtainable from Curwen, Boosey, and Novello, of the songs 1-160.—Ed.]

Per tro multa diskuto kaj harfendado oni riskas mortigi la fervoron de nova Esperanto studanto. Lernante la elementojn, la studanto bezonas antaŭ ĉio multan praktikon.

Eĉ oni konstatas plej racie per taskoj skribaj.

(Pri la korelativoj). Plej simple estas, lerni perfekte la sencon de la 5 homencajo kaj la 9 finaj silaboj.

Ni uzu nur Esperanton en niaj privataj taglibroj, klubaj protokoloj, ĉeteroj al samideaĵoj.

Ne postulu, ke Esperanto havu unu traftran vorton por ĉiu ajn Norvega vorto. Eĉ la rila Angla lingvo ne havas vorton por ĉiu afero Norvega. Aliflanke, ne estas eble traduki ĉiun Esperantan vorton por ĉiuj samsignifaj Norvega vorto.

Vortarojn ni uzu singarde, ĉar ofte unu Norvega vorto havas plurajn signifojn, tute diversajn.

Parolu vigle Esperante dum la ludado, por ke la tuta afero ne estu senutila.

Kiam oni bone scias la lingvon, ekstude aŭ ĉiu aktuale uzo Esperanto, paroloj Esperante.

S-ro A ne havas manuskripton, nur kelkajnotsoj. Li parolas simple, sed flue kaj imprese, kaptante la intereson de la aŭdantoj.

S-ro B legadas mallere el la manuskripton kun frazoj longaj kaj malsimplaj. Aŭ eble li lernis sian paroladon parkere, sed prezentas ĝin per voĉo monotona, sen vivo, sen varmo kaj sento, kvazaŭ legante skribitan artikolon. Kion vi preferas?

Ĉiu partoprenanto parolu forte kaj kuraĝe, kvazaŭ starante antaŭ granda publiko.

A few language comments. We read that many Esperanto Clubs meet only once or twice po monato (i.e., each meeting lasts a whole month!) (4). What is meant is an en monato, or (ĉiu) monato. Po monato means “a month at a time”. Protokolo seems better than referaĵo. Oni ekzercas sin, ne la taskon (6). Better: variigi la programon (6); doni al temo interesan formon (7); legi sen laciĝo (10); kanti senringarde (15).
NEW ROOTS IN ESPERANTO

(This article is a continuation of "The Evolution and Growth of Esperanto" (B.E., May, 1944), to which the reader is referred).

Are new roots needed?

If an official root is available (especially if it is in the U.V.), only strong reasons can justify an alternative. The itch to coin new words is usually a sign that the writer has not yet mastered the language.

If no official root is available, the need may usually be met by the use of affixes or a compound word. Only if these means do not suffice should a new root be introduced.

It is not always easy to decide whether a proposed neologism is (a) desirable, (b) at least tolerable, or (c) unnecessary, useless, or otherwise bad. Greater freedom is allowable with technical terms than with words of everyday life. "When in doubt, leave it out" is a safe rule. To introduce an unnecessary root is to do Esperanto a disservice. "La kriterio ne estu Tio kontentigas mian guston, sed Tio estas necesa por esprimi ideon alie neesprimeblan, aŭ esprimeblan tro artifike" (Lidja Zamenhof, "Pola Esperantisto", 1934 p. 60).

If the need for a new root is internationally felt, and if it proves satisfactory, it will be increasingly used, and—after the test of time and use—officialized.

A new root may be justifiable

To replace a heavy compound: e.g. treti (piedpremi); stumbli (falpuŝi); hego (kreskharido). But the compound remains usable as desired.

To avoid multiplication of roots by pseudo-affixes, and thus to gain lightness and regularity.

To express an idea for which otherwise several words would be needed: e.g. baŭmi (stariĝi sur la postaj piedoj).

To express a distinct and often needed shade of meaning: fal-sinki.

For technical and scientific terms (see article in last issue).

For poetry. This is a debated point. Some argue that just as the fakulo needs technical terms not used by the man in the street in ordinary life; so also the poet needs his own roots. Cp. sino-brusto; and English brine, main, mead, sword, steed. This point of view is urged by Kalocsay in Parnasa Gvidlibro. The opposite view is expressed in a resolution by the Japanese Congress 1933, and in B.E. 1933/8–10.

Dangers of a large radikaro

It weakens the claim that Esperanto is easy to learn. Every new root, even if widely known in Europe, is a new difficulty for the Oriental. The student will rename the language Esperanto!

It increases the risk of chaos through useless multiplication of synonyms.

It endangers the Esperanto system of word-building by agglutination, which is one of its most essential features.

Words proposed and listed, but not in living use, are museum mummies: they clutter up the dictionary with useless lumber.

To have a separate Esperanto root for every shade of meaning in every national language is neither necessary nor desirable. On the presumed necessity for Alaskan and Pacific roots see Geoghegan (B.E. 1935/90)! But local or national terms may be used on occasion, in italics, as foreign words.

Parallel Forms

That two synonyms should continue to struggle for existence, however much this may delight the poet, is in practice a doubtful blessing, and tolerable only provisionally, that the fitter may survive. Disadvantages:

(a) Difference of usage might develop into a dialect. But granted loyalty to U.V. and L.K., there is little danger of this: the tendency is in the other direction. Discussion of the question of the supposed danger of dialects is outside the scope of this article. Briefly and dogmatically one may say that with Esperanto the factors making for disintegration are absent, and those making for unity are active.

(b) Difficulty for the speaker. Speed in shorthand depends less on the perfection of the system than on the degree to which it is familiar to the writer: the form must flow automatically, without thought; and indecision between possible alternatives is fatal. So also in speech. Every alternative is a new difficulty for the learner, a source of hesitation for the speaker, and a problem for the conscientious writer, who wonders what is the difference (if any) between the synonyms.

(c) Difficulty for the hearer. Uniformity of expression is a help to the listener. A language consists less of separate words than of customary phrases and word-groups. This often enables the whole to be understood when only part has been really heard.
Checks to chaos

Everyone has the right to use Esperanto and write books in it. Hence many still-born roots and many poor books. But on the other hand everyone has the right to criticise, and to refuse to buy or to recommend rubbish. Reviewers should condemn and teachers should not use books written in poor Esperanto. For the good of the tree, the gardener does not spare diseased branches. See Lingvo Internacia 1909/21.

Words that are needless, or purely national or personal, are not likely to find imitators in other countries, and will probably die at birth. We are, however, far too ready to follow the latest fashion, and imitate every novelty, however bad, instead of looking on it with suspicion. The antidotes are common sense, loyalty to U.V. and L.K., and study of the best writers.

This is one of an unpublished series of comprehensive studies on problems of Esperanto vocabulary and evolution. Controversial subjects have not been avoided, and the series should thus be helpful to the serious student, and stimulate discussion. Whether further articles appear, however, depends on opinions expressed by readers. Do they want articles on linguistic subjects or not?

R.S.A. Examinations

The following extracts from the Examiner's report for 1945 may be of interest.

STAGE I (ELEMENTARY)

The standard of the papers was very varied. Some candidates should obviously have attempted a higher stage; several were unprepared for any stage! There was the usual crop of beginner's mistakes in the misuse or disuse of the accusative, but noun and adjective were generally made to agree.

Section I was well done on the whole. Ekiris (started off) and periinta (perished) gave the most trouble. Many got the meaning of the verses, but failed to put it into smooth English prose. Sati does not mean to like; it means to appreciate, prize, think highly of. Desperate guesses were cough him for tuos tin, and push the pen for pusis al peno.

Section II varied greatly in quality. General difficulties were They asked for fruit. They were given two apples, as also were just like, square, and round.

The essays in Section III were generally good for this stage.

In Section IV the phrases that gave most trouble were I forgot where I was and Come as soon as possible. There was a general ignorance of the meaning and use of ankoraǔ and ankoraǔ᾽s. Several even stated that ankoraǔ and baldau were prepositions.

STAGE II (INTERMEDIATE)

In general, translations were poor; original work was good. It is obvious that several candidates could think or speak in Esperanto with fair ease, but had nevertheless had little practice in translation from English.

Section I. The Esperanto prose was well translated. Disvolviĝo (development, evolution) was too often rendered diffusion, spread (=disvastiĝo). Suiinfana periodo (infancy) produced some surprising variants. The verse-translation was less satisfactory, and tended to be too literal. Blood-seeing and blood-avoiding were unfortunate guesses for sang-avida (bloodthirsty). Another howler: "A Jewish harper" became "some one playing a Jew's harp".

Section II was generally bad. The other evening, in this spirit, chimney-piece, controversies, terms, screw-driver, floored many.

Several translated love (ami) by ŝati (=appreciate). A tendency to overuse and misuse ŝati is a disease needing drastic treatment. The use of a comma before he and other conjunctions, to separate clauses, was badly neglected: a small point, but worth attention. This is another of the marks that distinguish the stylist from the dabbler. The reflexive pronoun was often neglected.

Section III (the essay) was in general good: several reached a really high standard.

In Section IV it will suffice to say that some did, and some definitely did not, understand the use of the adverbial participle (or other construction involved). Curiously enough, most candidates apparently did not know the word larmo (tear), but some brave circumlocutions were offered as substitutes.

Results of the 1945 examinations.—

Stage II: 31 papers; 9 First-Class, 16 Second-Class, 6 Fail. Stage I: 49 papers; 16 Pass with Credit, 19 Passed, 14 Fail. The total (80 candidates) is rather under that of 1944.

Details of dates and conditions of entry for the 1946 Examinations will appear in our next issue. On this occasion a Stage III examination will be held for the first time, provided that there are sufficient entries to justify it.
RECENT LECTURES

Oct.
8 Worthing. Psychology and Friendship Club.
10 Worthing. Esperanto Group.
Worthing. Public Meeting.
13 Eastleigh. Public Meeting.
15 Derby. Rotary Club.
Derby. Parkfield Cedars School.
Derby. Esperanto Classes.
17 Derby. Pear Tree Y.P. Fellowship.
18 Derby. Chad desden Citizens’ League.
19 Derby. Derby School.
Derby. Friardale Chapel.
22 Exeter. Rotary Club.
Exeter. Convent of the Presentation.
23 Exeter. Women’s Labour Party.
Exeter. Co-operative Youth Club.
26 Exeter. Public Meeting.
Plymouth. Swarthon Settlement.

Nov.
1 Plymouth. Lambspark School.
2 Plymouth. Rotary Club.
Plymouth. Christ Church Youth Club.
5 Bodmin. Public Meeting.
6 Bodmin. T.J.O. Class.
8 Okehampton. Grammar School.
Okehampton. Toth.
9 Okehampton. Public Meeting.
11 North Curry, Taunton. Tacchomoro Sch.
13 Yeovil. Park School.
Yeovil. Scouts’ Club.
14 Sidcot. Friends’ School.
15 Bristol. Esperanto Club.
17 Bristol. Museum Lecture Theatre.
21 Southampton. Itchen School.
Southampton. Citizens of Tomorrow.
26 Worthing. Sussex Road S.G. School.

Dec.
1 Birmingham. Princess Alice Orphanage Y.C.
10 Tolworth. Co-operative Hall.
15 Belgravia. Linguists’ Club.
17 Coulson. Rotary Club.
19 Woolwich. Shooter’s Hill School.
Eltham. Eltham Hall School.

A detailed account of these 51 meetings is impossible in our limited space. Otherwise many things might be reported of experiences discouraging and encouraging; audiences of all kinds; “Public” Meetings with no public; small meetings unexpectedly large; invitations received and at the very last moment cancelled; a welcome in most unexpected quarters; long and difficult journeys hampered by loads of books, baggage, and a typewriter, and by lack of transport facilities, but sometimes greatly lightened by the help of thoughtful and kindly friends; new classes started; old groups revived; prejudices removed; meetings with old pupils, or Esperantists first interested at a previous meeting; old friendships renewed; new friends made; some audiences almost embarrassingly enthusiastic; some as impressionable as a row of cows; resultant press propaganda; brave isolated members ploughing a very lonely furrow on stony ground; centres of Esperanto life which warmed the heart to visit; a school inviting us to conduct a prize distribution, apparently under the impression that we were the great R. A. Butler from London; a “Youth Club” meeting attended by adults only; a Head who said “No”, attended a lecture, and then gave us 300 children for the whole afternoon; a novel propaganda effort (reported on p. 108); and much more. Above all, the personal kindness shown by local friends, and the practical help given by a few individuals—here unnamed, but the real workers in the movement. Certainly good seed was sown, and a harvest is being reaped.

FIGURES FOR 1945

126 Lectures to 52 schools and 74 other meetings. Attendances, 7,833: 5,622 children, 202 teachers, 2,009 Youth Club members and adults. Direct Sales at meetings: 4,386 “Beginners” and £30. 8s. 6d. other books: total value, £85. 5s. 0d. Donations from places visited, towards cost of travel: £14. But in spite of a crowded autumn, these figures are well below those for 1944, as (perhaps) owing to political conditions few invitations were received in the first half of the year.

PROSPECTS FOR 1946

Now that the war is over, we should like to see 1946 a record year (the previous record was 213 meetings in 1936). This could be accomplished, if friends in parts of the country not recently visited took the matter up. The best results are shown when a week or so is booked provisionally, and local schools and other likely bodies are suitably approached. It is generally easy to fill several days with engagements in this
way, provided that (1) arrangements are commenced two or three months previously, (2) use is made of the literature I can supply for the purpose, and (3) one local and business-like friend acts as a centre and arranges the itinerary. For Secondary Schools the best terms are Spring and Autumn, and Summer is hardly possible, except in the few days at the end of July between exams and end of term: the door is then generally wide open.

M.C.B.

**NASKIĜO**

**Bailey**—Al Lou kaj Mary Bailey, 15 Aŭg., Antonio Paulo, en Leicester. Frato por Mikelo.

**Goodes**—Je 25 Sept., al W. M. kaj Astrid Goodes (n. Gustafsson), en Rosario, Argentino, filino, Monica Christina.

**Knight**—Je 6 Okt., al Kenneth kaj Vera Knight, Bristol, filino, Rosemary Jean.

**Penny**—Je 15 Nov., al Rob kaj Betty Penny, 21 Woodland Way, S.E.2., filo, Nicholas.

**EDZIĜO**

**Delgrado-Bailey**—Je 10 Nov., en Market Bosworth, Manuel Delgrado kun Brenda Bailey.

**MORTOJ**

**Bairstow**—Je 5 Nov., George Bairstow, Halifax, 55-jara.

**Chadwick**—Je 22 Oktobro, Jonathan Chadwick, en Rochdale, 93-jara. Unu el la kunfundintoj de la Grupo, en 1906, li laboris vigle por nia movado ĝis la fino.

**Fisher**—Je Sept. 18, S-ino A. Fisher, 3 Defoe Avenue, Kew Gardens, 77-jara. De multaj ĝaroj entuziasmo Esperantistio.


**EL LA LETERUJO**


Vidu tamen p.112 en la nuna numero—Red.

**SIMPLIFIED SPELLING**

"You are 100 per cent. right in saying that Simplified Spelling is not a subject within the province of the B.E., but your article on p. 89 calls for comment because your supposition that the S.S. movement lacks unity has as little ground as that which disparages Esperanto on the ground that scores of other schemes of I.L. exist! Yet it is this supposition which subtly does much harm in both cases.

The fact is that (as Esperanto does in the I.L. movement), the scheme of the S.S.S. presided over by Prof. Gilbert Murray stands out among those of individual nonentities (to one of whose unpleasant proposals your article gave the honour of mention, exemplification, and criticism).

The only real doubt in the S.S. movement is as to whether it should proceed on a fundamental system, as proposed by the S.S.S. in Britain, with a forlorn hope of ultimate acceptance; or should take the line of the American Society, which lists 400 of the worst spelt common words and proposes improvements for them.

R. Scott

The article was an impartial statement of difficulties and problems confronting any reformer of English spelling. Its raison d’être was to express a belief that one cause of the "unpleasantness" to which Mr. Scott refers is the use of digraphs, and that in this matter our Esperanto accepted letters—so often maligned by thoughtless critics—point the way to a rational and pleasing solution of the problem which is worthy of serious attention. The article was not an attack on the S.S. society or movement. We take no sides, and controversy on the matter is outside our scope—Ed.

**FROM SWITZERLAND**

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BRITISH ESPERANTO ASSOC., Inc.,
140 Holland Park Avenue,
NOVA PROPAGANDRIMEDO

Antaŭ kelka tempo en Bristolo on dissendis gustoplene presitajn afišojn kaj invitkartojn kun jena tekstopo:

BRISTOL MUSIC-LOVERS' CLUB and BRISTOL ESPERANTO SOCIETY instiλe all music-lovers to a LECTURE-RECITAL: "100 VARIATIONS ON A SCOTTISH MELODY", at the Museum Lecture Theatre, on Nov. 17, at 7.0 by Montagu C. Butler, L.R.A.M., Lewis Ramell (Piano), Richard Evens (Piano), Mary Ramell (Violin), and Barbara Nelson (Soprano). The Variations are in the form of piano duets for teacher and pupil, with occasional help from voice and violin; and illustrate various forms and harmonic and contrapuntal devices used by musicians. Silver collection to pay expenses.

Kolektigi sufiĉe granda aŭskultantaro, allogita de muzika vidpunkto. Oni klarigis, ke la prelego estis jam antaŭe farita en la Esperanta lingvo; kaj priparolis la Esperantan Muzikan Terminaron. Ĉiuj cestantaroj devis kanti en Esperanto, aŭskultitis Esperantan kanton, kaj ricevis propagandan folieton pri la lingvo kaj anoncon pri nova kurso. La afero tre sukcesis, kaj sendube multaj, kiuj neniam antaŭe kontaktsis Esperanton, ricevis favoran impreson pri la seriozeco de nun movado kaj la belsoneco de nia lingvo.

WHAT IS THE WAY?

In the July issue of New Zealand Esperantist "Bepo" gives the following study on the translation of the English word "way". It is not claimed that the translations given are the only possible, or necessarily the best; nor is it intended that they should be learned by heart. But they give a good example of the principle that a translation should seek to reproduce not words, but ideas.

By w. of answer, responde. Strive to bar their w., provi iliin haligi. Be in a bad w., esti en malbona stato. Make one's w. to, iri al. Escape by w. of the window, eskapi tra la fenestro. Traffic both ww., trafiko ambasadirekta. The w. if you want quick action, taŝga metodo por rapida agado. Give w., dati. Things came about this w., jen kiel la afero okazis. Nothing in the w. of suspicion, nenio suspektinda. It is not often that such a chance comes their w., ne ofte ili havas tiun okazon. Push one's w. out of a crowd, sin trapusi el homamaso. There was no w. to prove it, oni ne povis tion pruvi. The law reads your w., la lego decidus favore al vi. Show the way (set example), montri ekzemplon. Packed a little w. down the road, en malgrandaj distancoj sur la vojo. Run all the w. round the house, kuri ĉiirkaŭ la domo. The derrick is under w., la argano alveturas. A little tip by w. of thanks, donaco, esprimino de danko. They had no w. to pay the doctor, ili ne havis, per kio pagi la kuraciston. The aeroplane lost the w., eras fugis. Battle is the only w. out, la sola eliro. Present the grammar in an interesting w., en interesa forma. That is the w. all good Esperantists look at it, la vidpunkto de ĉiu bona Esperantisto. In most ww., plejparte. By the way, parentele. They turned their faces this way and that, en diversaj direktoj. By w. of solving solve al la problem. All the w. from England, de malproksima Anglujo. Be connected in this w., rilati jene. Some w. down the corridor, malproksimo en la koridoro. If he has his w., se li trofas sian volon. That I should know the wv. of gods, ke mi sciu la penson de la dioj. Have your w., estu laŭ via volo.

ADIAŬ, GLENSALOĤ

Skota kanto: "Farewell to Glenshalloch"

Adiaŭ, Gleenŝaloĥ !
Adiaŭ por ĉiam !
Mi hejman tegmenton
revidos neniam.
Paladas torento
kun voĉo dolora;
respondas lamento
de efo kunplora.

En sonĝo min kisis
la kara edzino,
kun filo apude
kaj bebo sur sino.
Ha ! Dolĉe ĉi kantis
al mi la dormanta—
sed venis la kanto
el koro sanganta.

Dormadu, karulo !
Nenio vin genos !
La filoj de l' valo
ĉi tien ne venos.
Mi lulos vin dormen
sur virĝaj montpintoj,
malgaĝe plorante
pri niaj mortpintoj.
NEWS FROM BRISTOL
B.E.A. CONGRESS, 1946

Date—Whitsuntide, June 7th–10th, 1946.
Membership—Entry Forms are enclosed with this issue of the British Esperantist, and it will be helpful to the organizing committee if intending members will return it without delay. This will facilitate arrangements for finding accommodation.

Congress Fee—5/6d., or 10/- including the Ball on Whit-Monday. After March 31st, the fee will be 6/6d. or 11/-.

Blinduloj—Free Congress tickets will be issued to all blind Esperantists and their guides. Will they please notify their intention of joining the Congress to Mr. W. Merrick, Penso, Shepperton.

Bristol invites you to its first Congress, and asks for your practical and moral support to ensure its success. This first post-war Congress can have tremendous consequences in a time when more and more people are becoming conscious of the language barrier in world relationships.

Innovations—Bristol offers the customary Ball, Civic Reception, Public Address Meeting, Divine Service, and of course, the A.G.M. and time for “fak-kunvenoj”. But two new features will be an “interkonatiga vepsero” with Country Dancing and Folk Song for all who are young in spirit, and an Esperanto “kafejo” with real Esperantist waitresses! The highlight will be a full-length presentation of “Midsummer Night’s Dream” on the Saturday night.

Excursions—Three types of excursions are planned. A Coach Tour to places of beauty and historic interest in the Mendip country, a cycle trip, and a short ramble. All three will bring members back in ample time for the Ball in the evening.

TJO Arrangements—The TJO is very strongly represented in Bristol, and we hope to welcome a record number of young Esperantists. To this end we are making special hostel-type provision and catering arrangements.

Guarantors—The secretaries will gratefully receive the names of guarantors up to £1 in the case of a deficit. Since the last issue went to print, they have acknowledged the following:


Donations—Needless to say, these will be doubly welcomed. We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following:—S-ro A. M. Anderson, £1. Total to date, £2. 10s. 0d. May we dare to hope for many others?

Official Congress Address—All communications please to:—The B.E.A. Congress Committee, Co-operative Education Centre, Broad Weir, Bristol, 1.

“THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM”
in the Services

A special edition of “The Language Problem”, by E. D. Durrant, published by The Esperanto Publishing Company Ltd., has been presented by the Company to the Services’ Central Book Depot, who have accepted the books for Forces’ libraries everywhere.

May we suggest that all Esperantists in the Forces make a point of seeing whether this book is in their station (or ship’s) library. If it is not, the Education Officer can easily obtain it on request. This book deals with the various attempts at international languages, the reasons and the case for Esperanto, and, briefly, its history: a worth-while book, therefore, in any library.

Will readers please note that this special edition is not available other than to Forces’ libraries. The ordinary edition is still available from B.E.A., price 7/-, post 5d.

ODDS AND ENDS

“My Fine Wife”—This is the winning phrase in our competition (p. 96) (Step by Step, 835). It was found by two readers, who each received the prize. One of them quotes also La patrino lavas sin (737); Si ne ripro's min (1087) (edzino ja ekster-ordinara); a daughter more lovely than the lovely mother (563); and Mia edzino faras lion, kion mi volas (877).

“American Esperantist” (114 West 16th Street, New York 11) (Yearly Subscription : One Dollar), the organ of the Esperanto Association of North America, continues to publish articles of remarkable interest and value, and under its present management is becoming one of the most important magazines in the movement.

The new secretary, Mr. G. Alan Connor, points out that though many cross-currents and special interests rightly deserve support, it is supremely important to concentrate effort and resources in the first place on the one common aim, the promotion and application of Esperanto; giving second place to secondary matters. And he quotes from “Babel” by Louis ManNeice:

Patriots, dreamers, die-hards, theoreticians, all,
Can't we ever, my love, speak in the same language?
Or shall we go, still quarrelling over words, to the wall?
Have we no aims in common?

Esperantist Teachers in any recognized school and University Graduates are reminded that Liverpool University offers three prizes of £25 yearly for Esperanto translation and essays. Details appeared in our September issue (p. 77). The required composition and translation must be sent in by May 1st each year. There is therefore time to decide to compete for 1946.

The Esperanto Museum in Vienna.—We read in Swisa Espero (Oct.) that all material has survived bombardment, and that the museum is now functioning again; also that Mr. Steiner has had official permission to print a new edition of the German “Key” and of his Textbook.

Divine Service in Esperanto (London).—With the Bishop’s permission, this service is now held on the 2nd Sunday each month at 3.15 in St. Barnabas’ Church, St. Barnabas’ Street, Pimlico Road, S.W.1, close to Sloane Square and Chelsea Barracks. Speakers: 13 Jan., F. Douglas Murphy. 10 Feb., Brian F. Bone.

Birmingham Central Library now has 190 Esperanto books, an increase of 80 in the year. A local member says that when he has bought and read a good Esperanto book he donates it to the Library, where it is welcomed. Ekzemplo imitinda!

Ni bedaŭras la morton de S-ro Percy Wagstaff, pioniro de edukado en Londono. Ĉe Bethnal Green Institute multaj lernis Esperanton en la “Esperanta Klubo” kiun li tie fondis.

British League of Catholic Esperantists.—It has been decided to reform this Society. Subscription, 3/6, to Mr. A. W. Leftwich, 42 Stile Hall Gardens, W.4. R.C. members should not fail to contact him and give their support.

Esperanto in Frankfurt.—In Welwyn Times (9th Nov.) Mr. Hinton reports that outside a Frankfurt railway station he saw a notice on a lamp-post advertising the local Esperanto group-meeting, which he visited. He was the first person from another country they had met since Hitler banned the movement twelve years ago. We congratulate him on re-establishing contact.

“The New Zealand Esperantist” reports the death on July 28th of Mrs. Ada Chapman-Taylor, a foundation member, aged 96. It also says that in a school class Amy Waite’s Mia Unua Libro and Mia Dua Libro “are proving their outstanding value as school text-books. They make a strong appeal to the children, and progress at a pace well suited to young minds”.

Mr. R. F. Latimer has a class of 16 students on his ship H.M.S. Holm Sound. This ship is at present in port, but leaves any day, when several more have promised to join the class.

Progress in other lands—It is impossible to put the news of the world into our small magazine, which is mainly concerned with Esperanto in Britain and the Colonies and Dominions. Yet much is happening of great interest. Underground magazines appeared regularly in occupied territory, new magazines are starting, new life is springing up everywhere. These things are reported by I.E.L., the international organization, in its magazine Esperanto Internacia, which has the latest information, and will now appear monthly. Any member of B.E.A. can obtain this magazine, and the Yearbook as well, by adding 9/- to his B.E.A. subscription. We recommend this to all members. To attempt to duplicate international news in both magazines seems futile.

The December issue of E.I. contains news from Denmark, Egypt, Flanders, the Netherlands, and Poland; a list of Radio Stations broadcasting Esperanto; and interesting articles on Palestine and on Post-War Houses in Britain.
Esperanto in Berlin—Mr. G. C. Love, A.E.C., writes that in November he spoke on Esperanto in the Toc H. Canteen in Berlin (one of the two Army Educational Centres there), and that as a result several soldiers promised to order text-books.

Rangers v. Moscow Dynamo.—Tommy Thompson, Evening Chronicle (Newcastle) football commentator, who refereed the match on Nov. 28th, writes (29th Nov.):—

“In all my experience I’ve never refereed a match in which the tension was so obvious. . . The players felt it, and the fact that I knew only two words of Russian didn’t help me much. There is no doubt the language difficulty has proved a great barrier in our games with the Russians. Only one of the party that I met could speak English. From now on I am an Esperanto advocate. There are many matches a referee can thoroughly enjoy, but this was not one of them.”

Congratulations to Mr. E. F. Relf, since 1925 Superintendent of the Aerodynamics Division of the National Physical Laboratory, who has been appointed Principal of the College of Aeronautics.

Mr. J. E. Whittaker, M.P.—With very great regret we report the death of Mr. John E. Whittaker, Labour M.P. for Heywood and Radcliffe, aged 49, who on 9th December was found dead—apparently from exposure—in a lonely spot near the moors. He was already weakened by illness and overwork, but insisted in carrying on against his doctor’s advice. In our last issue (p. 92) we reported a speech in Esperanto made by him before the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation. On 29th November he wrote to the secretary of the B.E.A. “I shall be delighted to meet you and any officials of the B.E.A. to discuss the points you mention. I shall be only too pleased to assist the cause of Esperanto in any way possible.”

The Nuremberg Court-room.—“Whatever the fate of the accused; the trial, by the time it is over, ought to fortify the argument for a common world language. Nuremberg may be a carefully controlled Babel, but it is a Babel all the same. The microphones, stop lights, and multilingual headphones, may accelerate the proceedings, but they complicate the hearings.”—The Scotsman, 21st Nov.

Anarchists and Esperanto—The magazine Freedom invites anarchist Esperantists to contact Hartvig Johansson, Haga Nyatan 7–9, Göteborg, Sweden.

JEN! LA BELAJ SONORILJO

(Para Rondhanto: “Christchurch Bells”,)

(1) Jen! la belaj sonoriloj!

Din din din! la sono venas,
Goje kaj majeste kaj tie dolce kantas ili!

(2) Aŭdu nun la pli solenan,

Adorantoj vokas ĝi:

“Ho venu, venu al preĝejo! Jam enpasis la pedel’!”.

(3) Dina dina din! je la naŭa sonas,
Por revoki nian!

Sed la tason ni ne volas lasi ĝis la tagofn’.

Trad. L. G. Watson

CO-OPERATIVE ESPERANTO LEAGUE

Oni nun reformas la Kooperan Esperantan Ligon. Sek., A. A. Ager, 8 Pelham Rd., Beckenham, Kent.


Ĉe la Jarkunveno de la Nacia Asocio de Kooperaj Eduko-komitatoj okazinta en Paignton, je Pasko, 1945, la jena rezolucio estis akceptita: That the N.A.C.E.C. support and encourage, wherever possible, the international language Esperanto.

REPLY COUPONS

In response to requests from several members we are giving the following information (from the Post Office Guide) regarding Internaciaj Respondekuponoj.

Reply Coupons are sold at the larger post offices in this country and coupons received from abroad may be exchanged for postage stamps at any money order office in the United Kingdom. They are of two kinds, International Coupons and Imperial Coupons.

International coupons cost 6d. in the United Kingdom and are exchangeable in any foreign country (where normal postal arrangements are in force), for stamps representing the minimum postage payable on a letter sent from that country to the United Kingdom. International coupons received in the United Kingdom are exchangeable for stamps to the value of 3d.

Imperial coupons cost 3d. in the United Kingdom and are exchangeable in any country of the Empire and Palestine for stamps representing the minimum postage payable on a letter sent from that country to the United Kingdom. An Imperial coupon received in the United Kingdom is exchangeable for stamps to the value of 2½d.
Esperantisto, eldonata en Nürnberg (Nuremberg), sed abonata plejmulte en Rusijo. En ĝi aperis traduko de verketo de Tolstoja, kiu jus estis espriminta simpatio por nia afero. La Rusa cenzuro, en tiu tempo de cara regimo, kiam oni timegis ĉiun liberalan tendencon, tuj malpermesis pluan eniradon de la gazeto en Ruslando. Tiel, perdinte la plejparton el siaj abonantoj, devis morti la sola gazeto de la nova lingvo, post vivo sesjara.

La bato al nia afero šajnis mortiga. Sed jam en Decembro de 1895, el la Sveda urbo Upsala, fervora klubo Esperantista eldonis la poste faman gazeton Lingvo Internacia; per sia kuraĝo kaj sindonemon meritante, kaj ricevonte, honoran ĉapitron en ĉiu historio de nia lingvo.

En 1943 la situacio estis denove dangera por Esperanto. Malgraŭ, ke la grandega evoluvo de nia tradicio kaj nia literaturo povis promesi ian daŭropovon; malgraŭ, ke du bonaj gazeto aperis regule en Britujo; kaj malgraŭ laŭdinda Esperantista agado en iuj lokoj, ekzemple Brazilo; entute oni devas diri, ke la dua mondzmilito, simile al la unua, estis grandega malhelpo kaj minaco por nia afero.

Kaj tial oni devas saluti ĉi tiun novan gazeton en Esperanto, regule eldonatan en Svedujo, kun sento de tia sama admirio kian ni havas por la kuraĝa Svedaj samideanoj en la frua jaro de nia lingvo. La enhavo de la gazeto montras la kuraĝon, kaj la enhavo de ĝi simile al ĝisnunaj numeroj montras la kapablon, kiu ĉiuj havas Steellan Engholm en siaj roloj eldonista kaj ĉefredaktora. Noveloj, poemoj, sociologioj kaj psikologioj pri ĉiujaroj, rekompensoc de la abonon. Ankaŭ tioj estos rekompenco, konsci, ke oni faris sian devon, subtenante bravon paŝon antiĉian.
LOCAL NEWS


The local N.U.W.T. arranged an Esperanto programme at the University on 16 Oct., inviting members of other Teachers’ Associations. 44 were present. Pupils of Tinker’s Farm School gave the programme, including a demonstration of conversation and a play in Esperanto.

Bishop Auckland—Dr. J. Rowlandson addressed the Literary and Debating Society.

Cardiff—Recent Lectures: 26 Oct.: Mr. O. Jones to 56 men at Albany Rd. “Men’s Own”. 12 Nov.: Miss E. J. Downes to 42 at Star St. Congregational Church. 19 Nov. Miss C. Humphrey, B.A. to 30 at Tabernacle Church. 27 Nov.: Miss Downes, at Birchgrove Methodist Church.

Clay Cross (Chesterfield)—Class under Rev. D. W. Robson.

Darwin—Address by Mr. F. Parker at Greenfield Institute. Class on Tuesday nights.

East Midland Federation—Next Meeting: 12 Jan., 3.15, at Friends’ Meeting House, Friar Lane, Nottingham.


Glasgow—At Highlanders’ Institute, 27 Elmbank Street, Mondays. Conversation Circle: 7.0 Classes: 8.0

Huddersfield—Group meetings very much alive. Music and drama are prominent features. Two classes and an ambitious programme. On 26 Jan., 6.0., a visit from the Esperanto Magician, at Armitage Room, Fraternity Hall.

Ilford—After five years’ devoted work Miss Strapps is obliged to resign secretaryship, though not contact and interest. But where is an Elisha to take up Elijah’s mantle?

Ipswich—Mr. J. Heath, of Ranelagh Rd. J.M. School has a class in the school curriculum.


Lancashire and Cheshire Federation, Next Meetings: (a) 9 Feb., Providence School, Toad Lane, Rochdale. (b) 4 May: Greenfield Institute, Darwen.

Leicester—Meetings in Friends’ Meeting House, Prebend St., 2nd and 4th Weds., 7.0.

Lincoln—W. E. A. Class under Mr. Thompson. Mr. A. Pilloto has a class for Italians at P.O.W. Hostel in Lummy.

London, E.S.—Class under Miss I. M. Lawton, at Hackney Youth Clubs, 4 Martello St., Hackney, Thurs., 8.0.


London, S.W.12 (Balham)—Kunvenoj dufoje en la monado. Detaloj ĉe A. W. Rowe, 116 Elthorpe St., S.W.18.

London, S.W.18—Class on Fri., 8.0 at 9 Quinton St.

Manchester—Meetings: 26 Jan. and 23 Feb., 2.30, at 64 George St. Conversation Circle: Tues., 7.0 at 27 Lower Moseley St. Society has now 81 members (64 in 1944). Goal for 1946: 100. Some ten members will enter for R.S.A. Stage III exam.

N.E. Federation—Notes from the Meeting in Sunderland, 22 Sept. A satisfactory credit balance. “La Nordano” has over 70 subscribers. West Hartlepool: Class at Miss Squire’s house. Four classes at Stockton under Miss Rowbotham; five learners at Seaham Harbour Girls’ Grammar School, and 60 at Bishop Auckland.

Nottingham—The group is on the upgrade. Two classes at Clarendon Evening Institute.

Oldham—Regular notes in Oldham Standard. Propaganda talks have been given to Youth Centres, Guides, Scouts, and St. John Ambulance Cadets. The Group invites a Guest Speaker every 1st Monday: question and discussion in Esperanto only.

Painswick—Mr. D. Faux has addressed the Cong. Men’s Meeting.

Portsmouth—The Group is being reformed. Local Esperantists please contact Miss Moss, 23 Tarswell Road, or Mr. W. W. Hild, 144 Devonshire Avenue.
St. Helens—Mrs. Merchant, lectured to the H.G. Girls’ School. Adult Classes are held here on Thurs. evenings.

Sheffield—Mr. H. Bramwell’s class at Hadfield House Lane Evening School, Tues., has 40 students.

On 4th Dec. the local group visited the class, and a fine time was enjoyed with solo and community singing in Esperanto, and an Esperanto play.

Southend-on-Sea—The group issues an interesting bulletin. Details of meetings from D. Ranger, 157 Westbourne Grove, Westcliff.

Stoneyholme, Burnley—Messrs. E. Maden and F. Berry lectured to Methodist Men’s Fellowship on Nov. 30.


Sutherland—Class: Thurs. evenings, at West Park Central School.


Wigan—Class of 24. Details from F. Parker, 368 Colne Rd., Burnley.

Yorkshire Federation—Next Meeting: 19 Jan., at Holdforth Street Methodist Schoolroom, Lower Wortley, Leeds, 3.15.

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**ISLAMA KORESPONDA RONDO**

Mr. Colin Evans, Londona Fakdelegito por Islamo (10 St. Philip’s Place, London, W.2) writes that the current *Muslim News* contains several items about Esperanto. He is organizing I.K.R. to arrange pen-friendships between Esperantist Muslims, and between them and non-Muslim Esperantists; to spread a knowledge of Islam in the Esperanto world and *vice versa*; to publish Islamic literature, and later a magazine, in Esperanto; to arrange *Islamic* jalkvenevoj at Esperanto Congresses, and perhaps a pilgrimage of Esperantist Muslims to Mecca. There is no subscription, but enquirers should send stamp for reply.

In a “vocabulary note” Mr. Evans says that he dislikes the usual terms Mahometano, -ismo, as contrary to Arabic spelling and phonetics, and as implying the worship of Muhammad (though it certainly does not—Ed.). He prefers *Islamo* as the name of the religion, and *Islamano* for a Muslim. The name *Mahometo* for the prophet may be retained, as established. But *Muhamado* or *Mohamedo* would be nearer the Arabic: the former based on international Arabic spelling; the latter on modern Arabic pronunciation.

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Small Announcements

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"La Fino"—Only about 60 copies remain. Order at once to secure.

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