

High-street.

LATINO SINE FLEXIONE (OR INTERLINGUA).

A sane and ideal common language.

Sir,—It is surprising that while visionaries have for many years past been excogitating various extravagant and ridiculous "universal" languages, to avoid the interminable translations out of one existing tongue into another, before any foreigners can understand each other's talk, yet the obvious and ideal solution of this most important problem has never been proposed, although one would think it could be hardly be missed.

Up to some 200 years ago, the unquestioned common language was Latin, a tongue perfectly simple in pronunciation, and the basis of all others to a greater or less extent, as well as that still spoken in the Catholic Church, so as to be understood, in some degree at least, by every member of that world-wide creed. Besides words derived from it, many phrases in pure Latin are still current among all civilized or educated people, and many words are universally understood by everybody. In addition, all western languages are, to a greater or less extent, actually derived from it. French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese to about seven-eighths, English to three-fifths, German, Dutch and Scandinavian to a smaller extent, while they all follow the Roman pronunciation, either absolutely as the first four, and the next three in their native words, French only having so modified it as to be nearly as erratic as English, the most irregularly sounded of all European idioms!

Latin has only one drawback as a common medium of communication, namely, its extremely difficult and complicated grammar, which takes some five years to master, this rendering it quite out of the question as a practical proposal, and being the actual reason for its disuse at last, when in universal usage, and apparently firmly established.

The obvious and evident solution of the difficulty is therefore the removal of this one stumbling block, by the simplification of its grammar, yet no one of the learned linguists who are acquainted with Latin, has ever thought of this way out (which positively leaps to the eye), but Professor Peano, of the University of Turin, who, supported by a few others, has launched it upon the world!

This is all the easier, as Latin, except for its accidence, is simple in the extreme, and as nearly all its words are familiar, at least to Western nations, by derivations in their own tongues, it can be acquired in less time than any other. Indeed, only some half dozen considerations have to be borne in mind. These are that masculine nouns end mostly in o, feminine in a, while the majority terminate in e, and plurals, where necessary (only seldom) uniformly end in s, like English, French and Spanish. The verbs retain the same form for each conjugation (as the tense is denoted by the context) while the adverbs and adjectives are unchangeable and are the common universal ones, such as *ab, ad, con, com, de, dum, ex, in, per, pro, sub, super, subter, tum, tunc, etc.*, as used colloquially ever in English phrases. Hence, with a Latin dictionary, any student can at once write and talk Latino, or Interlingua, without any further study, if he only bears in mind that the letters only have one sound, the vowels being pronounced as in the words *mama, demesne, quinine, contort, gulu*, respectively, and the consonants c and g always hard. Naturally the diphthongs, as ae and oe, retain the sounds of their constituents, as in *aisle, Faust*.

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TRAPPED RABBITS.

SIR,—Passing a butcher's shop a few days ago, my attention was drawn to a board advertising the sale of "Trapped rabbits." I entered and pointed out to one of the assistants the cruelty of steel rabbit traps, but was informed that customers preferred trapped rabbits to those shot, as in the

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