

out our mistake until it is too late to make amends.

It is well to remember that we are all made in the same mould, subject to the same feelings and temptations, dreaming the same dreams, going toward the same goal, and, in the dawn of eternity, will be judged by the same God.

When a man has lost the sentiment of pity out of his heart, he is not fit to live in such a world as this. Hard words are like hailstones in summer, beating down and destroying what they would nourish were they melted into raindrops. If we were to seek out the good points in those about us, to let their failings fade into the shadow of our charity, to emphasize their best and appeal to it, life would seem very different both to ourselves and to them. A word of kindness and of understanding will accomplish wonders. Affection is a remedy for diseased souls and warped characters. Many have died in impenitence who might have been saints had they encountered, in their path, someone who pitied them, who loved them, and had let them know it.

If we would always do unto others as we would be done by, there would be a great deal more peace and happiness in the world. Charity is kind, humble, tolerant, patient, and generous. It does not meddle, nor envy, nor deal in petty jealousies. It does not sacrifice others to pride. Where there is charity, there also is God. For "God is charity." (1 John IV, 16).

—*Charles MacIvor*, '46.

BASIC ENGLISH

On every side today we hear much about universal post-war reconstruction and its prerequisite, national unity. In a negative way all the barriers to these aims are criticized and decried. As such a barrier to both universal post-war reconstruction and national unity the difficulty of difference of language has been pointed out and lamented. But heretofore lamentation was as far as things went, for no one had any worthy suggestions

as to how such a barrier was to be removed. However, there has appeared on the horizon within the last two or three years a hopeful plan which promises to do much in the overcoming of this obstacle, at least on a national scale. That new hope is Basic English.

Basic English is a lingual system derived or really chosen from our everyday English, for all its content is ordinary English words. These, however, have been picked with care and include only such important and often used words as can serve to form a skeleton language which may support one's speech in that medium until a greater vocabulary is acquired by association. The system thus acts as a working basis for the acquisition of the whole English language and it is not intended to be an "airtight vessel" causing its user's vocabulary to contain forever only these same basic words. On the other hand, if the Basic speaker does not live among the English he can limit it to a medium of formal or political intercourse and is not therefore forced by the system to expand it or to abandon his own language in favour of it. This is a good diplomatic quality.

As far as actual detailed content goes, Basic English contains 850 words. The groups are: Operations (verbs and prepositions)—100; Things—400 General; Things—200 Picturable; Qualities—100 General; and Qualities—50 Opposites. To these there are added all the English terms for measurement, numerals, currency, and calendar, and international terms. To this list there are appended, short and simple rules for the formation of plurals, derivatives from nouns, adverbs from qualifiers, degree, and interrogatives. This short list is so surprisingly adequate that if a person were to read an article written well in Basic and had not been told previously that it was so written, he would not, unless he were very critical notice any difference between these smooth-flowing and expressive lines and those of ordinary English. Indeed, so capable is it of complete expression of one's thoughts that—as a matter of current interest—the movie production of that best-seller, *The Robe*, is going to be made in Basic English.

This, briefly, is Basic English. It is a unique method of speech in that it is composed of a short vocabulary, easy to learn and, nevertheless, not of a nature that con-

finds expression within narrow limits. Hence it should be a vital instrument in world unity. This is especially so because the language upon which it is based and to which it leads is already one of the most universal in the world today.

In a more particular way it is of interest and importance in Canada, our own country. Here, where we have the two languages, French and English, rooted firmly in their particular parts of the country, and existing as possibly the greatest barrier to our own national unity, Basic English could prove the key to our whole prosperity after the war. Moreover, since Canada has a population of such a small density and so may well adopt a policy of immigration after the war to develop her vast resources, Basic English would prove again in this instance the main pillar upon which she would base such a policy.

Since it could be of such importance then, both to people who do speak English and to those who do not, it should be studied by both. When its importance has been recognized to this extent that it is taught to all our people for use as such an instrument as is described above, then, and only then, can it prove its fibre and, doubtless, it will live up to all the expectations people hold for it.

—*James Kelly, '46.*