Generally, the problems posed in other sections of our Journal are for the seasoned veteran of the word wars. In this section, we are featuring considerably easier puzzles and quizzes, as an encouragement to neophytes, those fearless souls just entering upon the Way of the Word.

Our Latin title, SIMPLICISSIMI, appropriately means "the simplest ones." Beyond that, it is a word interesting for its own sake, being a 13-letter word using only I's for vowels. About the only English words topping it are INVISIBILITY and NIMINY-PIMINYISMS. Phonetically, both of these English words use seven I's and no other vowels; orthographically, six I's apiece. Can you do better?

Since the problems that follow are comparatively easy, we have included the correct solutions in this issue of WORD WAYS, beginning on page 254.

Crisscross Words

In the diagram below, the borders are formed by four words which meet at the corners. Sixteen additional letters are needed to complete the puzzle. These letters are listed beneath the puzzle; scratch them off as you use them, to make sure you use them all.

Since this puzzle is not too easy, definitive clues are given for the four words you must insert.

Ross Eckler
Newtown, New Jersey

for your luggage
the other suitcases,
...could that be
J.F.K.? Surely
The initials on it
at last initial?—
was over to pick it
I presume?" The
total stranger by
strong predictive
name O'BRIEN
beginning with O,'B,
seem fitting than to
Francis Xavier?
ried out a brief
East Coast cities.
name beginning
beginning with
arguing that most
FRANK because
X. O'Briens and
F. X. O'B's who
}

F. X. O'B's who

Francis Xavier?
ried out a brief
East Coast cities.
name beginning
beginning with
arguing that most
FRANK because
X. O'Briens and
F. X. O'B's who

THE JOURNAL OF RECREATIONAL LINGUISTICS
What's In a Name?

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Most of us, at some time or another, have puzzled over "what to name the baby" and have decided to call it ROSE or BLANCHE from its color, or EUGENE (because we think it well-bred), or DONALD (because we hope that it will be a world ruler), or something like that. The Egyptians who found MOSES in the bulrushes didn't worry much about his name and simply gave him the equivalent of "child."

Many parents have given their offspring names of which the following are the English equivalents. Can you supply the corresponding masculine and feminine first names?

4. Lame 11. Horseman 17. Foreign
7. Lively

Rate yourself as follows: 10 names identified, very good; 15 names, excellent; 19 or 20 names, almost impossible!
Last night, I fed the basic rules of rhyming into my computer, and instructed her to write a poem. This is what she produced:

I am just a humble student,  
I don't want to seem impudent:  
Poems are not what I type.  
I appreciate human glory,  
Drama, fiction, and history,  
But I cannot follow your recipe.

Mine is not a playful nature;  
I am rational and mature,  
Working points of logic through.  
No: my verse would sound too strident,  
All its hollowness evident,  
As I clank and grind and huff and cough.

Should I sing of great surprises,  
Of a foreign land's promises,  
Fountains of eternal youth?  
Follow an explorer's fever  
Through the forests dark forever,  
Roaming north and east and west and south?

Should I pluck a dandelion?  
Watch the panic-struck scorpion  
And his self-inflicted wounds?  
Visit with King Arthur's daughter?  
Share her happiness and laughter?  
Try to rhyme a newborn baby's sounds?

Your expected something pious?  
Sentimental? Hilarious?  
Oh, if you but understood!  
Do not scold me for this shyness,  
Arrogance or constrictness:  
I'm, alas, not made of flesh and blood.

Let me swear it on the Bible:  
My dismay is incredible,  
All my pride gone with the wind.  
By resentful Muses spited,  
Here I stand, disinherited,  
Voiceless, mindless, heavy, deaf, and blind!

The outstanding characteristic of the poem is its use of a series of sight rhymes or eye rhymes, not a single one of which rhymes phonetically. Reasoning from this fact, can you deduce the first and last name of my computer? You know that it is a "she," and that "her" first and last names involve a sight rhyme. Try!
Our 7 x 7 letter square, shown below, contains the words to a quotation by a famous writer, plus that writer's last name. Follow the clues and enter your solutions in the appropriate blanks. For example, if a clue were to read, "Word X: Starting at C-1; bashful," you would first look at the blanks for word X and see that you were searching for a 3-letter word. You would then go to the letter square, and starting with the letter at coordinates C-1, search out a 3-letter synonym for "bashful." The answer, SHY, you would enter in the blanks for word X, and then go on to the next word.

SAMPLE

A B C D E F G
1 a d s b r i n
2 t e e h y o r
3 w s r a t p s
4 u o d f l i k
5 i p w u d i n
6 n k g a r g u
7 d u n b h a k

In tracing out words in the letter square, go one letter at a time up, down, left, right, or diagonally. No letter position is used more than once for any word.

Here is the actual square:

A B C D E F G
1 a d s b r i n
2 t e e h y o r
3 w s r a t p s
4 u o d f l i k
5 i p w u d i n
6 n k g a r g u
7 d u n b h a k

And here are the word-and-author clues:
Word 1: Starting at A-3; language elements that can stand alone as utterances.
Word 2: Starting at D-3; present indicative plural of the verb "to be."
Word 3: Starting at E-3; definite article.
Word 4: Starting at C-5; the superlative of "more."
Word 5: Starting at B-5; having great force.
Word 6: Starting at E-5; a habit-forming medicinal substance.
Word 7: Starting at A-4; employed for some purpose.
Word 8: Starting at D-1; preposition meaning "near to."
Word 9: Starting at C-5; the human race.
Word 10: Starting at G-4; British writer and poet (1865-1936).

THE QUOTATION:

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

WORD WAYS

I can't "kangaroo" child. My normal example: these "I"...
Words Within Words

I can't remember now where I first heard of what were called in my youth "kangaroo words," but that's one of the ways I was taught about synonyms as a child. My own students since have added many words to this ancient list. Perhaps you'd care to take a go at it. Each of the following words contains in normal order smaller words which are perfect synonyms for the original. Example: BLOSSOM contains BLOOM. Find the baby in the pouch of each of these "kangaroo words":

1. CALUMNIES 8. JOVIALITY 15. RAMPAGE
2. CONTAINER 9. MATCHES 16: RAPSCALLION
3. CURTAIL 10. PERAMBULATE 17. REGULATES
4. DIVERSIFIED 11. PERIMETER 18. RESPITE
5. ENCOURAGE 12. PINIONED 19. SLITHERED
6. EVACUATE 13. PRATTLE 20. SPLOTCHES
7. INDOLENT 14. PROSECUTE

The Word Watchers' Test

Words do not need to be unusual, or even particularly long, to be interesting. All that is required is an ability to recognize remarkable words as they are encountered. Thus, RUST is noteworthy because it consists of four consecutive alphabetic letters: NOON is a four-way palindrome, reading the same backward as forward, both right side up and upside down; and ASSESS is an extremely short word using four S's.

How good are you as a word watcher? Listed below, in alphabetical order, are 25 very interesting words. Can you tell us what it is about each word that qualifies it for inclusion in the list?

Score yourself as follows: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, excellent; 20 or more, superior. Have fun!

1. ASPIRATE 10. HORSESHOER 18. STARTLINGS
2. BILLOWY 11. IDEALITY 19. STRENGTHS
3. BOATHOUSE 12. NOWHERE 20. STRESSED
4. BOOKEEPR 13. PASTERNS 21. SWEETHEART
5. BRIGHT-FACED 14. REPAIRS 22. UNCOPYRIGHTABLE
6. CHOCOLATE 15. RIDICULOUS 23. UNITED
7. COMMEMORATIVE 16. SATAN 24. UNORIENTAL
8. DEIFIED 17. SEQUOIA 25. USHERS
9. FACETIOUSLY