SOLUTION OF THE GEMATRIC EQUATIONS

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Some things are so obvious that it takes centuries before they are noticed. So it is with the gematric equations, only recently brought to light. Gematria comes down to us from the ancient Greeks, the letters of whose newly-acquired Phoenician alphabet they used to represent numbers. The Phoenicians were a seafaring nation who became fed up with carting the alphabet around in their boats and finally solved the problem by dumping letters onto the Greek coast. Following the discovery of the telephone, the Phoenicians turned into Telephoenicians and sailed off into the blue, a fact of which History remained ignorant until Bell's discovery of the second telephone in 1876. In the meantime, being ancient, the Greeks decided against inventing algebra, which, on etymological grounds, was best left to the Arabs, preferring instead to concentrate on the Number of the Beast, etc. At length, in 666 BC, Epon of Smyrna (to whom we owe the word **eponymous**) finally established A = 1, and two years later B = 2. Later investigators built upon these early results to extend coverage over the entire alphabet. Only recently, however, the Transylvanian logologist Professor Z. Einschwein stunned the international numerological community by identifying the gematric equations, which, once glimpsed, cry out to logologists for solution:

a = o+n+e	n = f+o+u+r+t+e+e+n
b = t+w+o	o = f+i+f+t+e+e+n
c = t+h+r+e+e	p = s+i+x+t+e+e+n
d = f+o+u+r	q = s+e+v+e+n+t+e+e+n
e = f+i+v+e	r = e+i+g+h+t+e+e+n
f = s+i+x	s = n+i+n+e+t+e+e+n
g = s+e+v+e+n	t = t+w+e+n+t+y
h = e+i+g+h+t	u = t+w+e+n+t+y+o+n+e
i = n+i+n+e	v = t+w+e+n+t+y+t+w+o
j = t+e+n	w = t+w+e+n+t+y+t+h+r+e+e
k = e+l+e+v+e+n	x = t+w+e+n+t+y+f+o+u+r
l = t+w+e+l+v+e	y = t+w+e+n+t+y+f+i+v+e
m = t+h+i+r+t+e+e+n	z = t+w+e+n+t+y+s+i+x

There are infintely many different ways numbers can be substituted for a,b,...,z so as to satisfy the above. But suppose k = 0. Then there is just one single solution using integral values (not necessarily distinct) for the 26 letters. There are two ways (one easy, one hard) to discover this solution - can you succeed? For the answer, see Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.