

*Internaciona matematikal Lexiko en Ido, Germana, Angla, Franca, e Italiana.* By DR. LOUIS COUTURAT. Jena, Gustav Fischer, 1910. 4to. ii + 36 pp. M. 1.50.

WHETHER a universal language will ever be possible, and whether it will be a living tongue or an artificial construction, remains for the future to show. The fate of Volapük is still fresh in memory, and now the simple language of Esperanto is simplified still more in the new Ido. One may reflect that "le mieux est l'ennemi du bien"; what one considers simple another may not, and as soon as we begin to perfect, we begin to evolve a new thing. To be artificially universal a language must be fixed, crystallized. When one considers the inconsistent notations of mathematics itself and yet their persistence, he may take warning as to the attempt at faultless simplicity.

However, we have here a pamphlet of some thirty-six pages with five columns—Ido—Deutsch—English—Français—Italiano. The first is alphabetic and contains about 1300 words in the artificial tongue Ido. The other columns contain their equivalents. The list follows Müller's *Vocabulaire* closely, omitting archaic terms and those employed by a single author. The resemblance of the entire list to their French equivalents is rather striking, and one may ask whether after all, it would not be the simplest thing to adopt French as a universal tongue.

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*Anfangsgründe der Maxwellschen Theorie verknüpft mit der Elektronentheorie.* Von FRANZ RICHARZ. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1909. ix + 245 pp.

THE elements of the theory of the electromagnetic field are now so widely taught, and to so many pupils, that numerous teachers can indulge in the satisfaction of having their own text from which their pupils may get the viewpoint which seems most desirable for them. The literature of the subject therefore grows apace, and as it grows, there devolves upon each successive author the duty to write with some well defined aim rather than to attempt an exhaustive treatment. Apparently Richarz has clearly recognized this duty and privilege and has been successful in their execution. His book must therefore be welcome and advantageous to many teachers who wish to lay the theoretical foundations for the more important applications without being led astray into discussions which at