Toward an International Language

European officials have often pointed out that English spelling is unnecessarily difficult—cough, slough, through, and thorough, for example. Having chosen English as the preferred language in the European Economic Community, the European Parliament has commissioned a study to find ways to simplify communication between government departments.

In the first year, the committee suggests using s instead of a soft c. Sertainly, sivil servants in all sities would reseive this news with joy. The hard c could be replaced by k since both are pronounced alike. Not only would this klear up konfusion in the minds of klerikal workers, but typewriters kould be made with one less letter.

Growing support is expected when, in the sekond year, it is announsed that the troublesome ph would henseforth be written as f; making words like fotograf 20 percent shorter in print.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling can be expekted to reash the stage where more komplikated shanges are possible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always been a bane to akurate spelling.

We would al agree that the horrible mes of silent e in the languag is disgrasful. Therfor we kould drop ths and kontinu to rid and ryt as though nothing had hapened. By this tym it would be four years sins the skem began and pipi would be reestiv to steps suth as replasing th by z. Perhaps zen ze funkshun of w kould be taken on by v, vitsh is, after al, half a w. Ze unesesary o kould be dropd from virds kontaining ou. Similar arguments vud of kors be applyd to ozer kombinashuns of leters.

Kontinuing zis proses yir after yir, ve vud eventuli hav a rili sensibl ryting styl. After eventi yirs zer vud be no mor difikultis and evrivun vud fin it isi to understand ich ozer.

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An incredibly insatiable desire to understand that which was going on led to the demise of this particular Felis catus.

(Answer on page 113)

"Strive for excellence, not perfection."

—Susan G Stafford, professor, in BioScience

Managing Editor, Annals of Surgery

We are searching for an experienced editor to manage the Annals of Surgery, a premier surgical journal with 12,000 national and international subscribers, published monthly by Lippincott-Raven Publishers in Philadelphia. Working with the new editor-in-chief, Layton Rikkers, MD, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, you will manage all aspects of the review process. Responsibilities include reviewing original submissions, assigning manuscripts to editorial board members, implementing and maintaining a Web-based communication system for peer review, developing content, designing thematic issues, and managing all communications with publisher. Relocation to Madison, WI, is required. Please send a resume; names and phone numbers of three professional references; three samples of edited/published articles, publications, or journals which demonstrate your ability to write/edit and/or manage a journal; and a cover letter outlining your interest and salary requirements to: Layton Rikkers, MD, Professor and Chairman, University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery, H4/710D CSC, 600 Highland Avenue, Madison WI 53792.

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