native mill: the elder Rossetti insisted that in the Ghibelline gergo "il ghibellinismo fu detto vita ed il guelfismo morte; perciò Dante chiamò la V. N. il nuovo corso di sua vita politica, e nascimento l'istante in cui v'entrò". We need not mention that grotesque interpretation of M. Clecner (Sinowitz) for whom Beatrice is an allegory of the Talmud and the Vita Nova a source book of cabalistic symbolism.8

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THE SUFFIXES -ASTER, -IGNUS, ETC., IN NOUNS OF RELATIONSHIP

In an article on the Interchange of suffixes -aster, -ignus and -icus (Mod. Lang. Notes, 1909, 241–3), Mr. S. G. Patterson sustains that, in words of step-relationship, in addition to the endings -aster and -ignus (of Lat. privignus8), the termination -icus (of Lat. vitricus) survives, not only in Sard. bidrigu, etc. and Rum. vitrigu, etc., but also in O. Fr. serorge, etc. (Godefroy) and in Neapol. matreye and patreye.

After considering the diffusion of -aster and -ignus, the author summarizes: "Enough examples have been given to show the constant interchange of -ignus and -aster in these words of quasi-kinship . . . in several dialects the same stem is found compounded indifferently with either suffix (cf. Venet.)." He doubtless means rather alternation than interchange; for no real interchange is demonstrated: the diffusion of Ven. pareastro is not precisely the same as that of paregno; Boerio limits the first to Chioggia.2 We need similar light on the Raetian madastro, -igna. We should have documentary proof of Meyer Lübke's citation of "patrigno, matrigna refaits à l'époque romaine déjà sur privignus." That we have here a case of irradiation (in Bréal's diction) is doubtful, in that the suffix -ineus of sanguineus, consanguineus, stamineus,

2 Michael Sinowitz, Schlüssel zu D. A.'s Werke: Das Neue Leben, Zürich, Cleener, 1903.
3 C.f. Festus, De Significatione Verborum, s. v.
4 Disc. del dialetto veneziano, Venezia, 1856, s. v. pareastro.
has had, especially in words of color, much the same history as
-aster: giallastro, sanguigno. Nor can we, as regards general
method, treat these suffixes as specifically connoting relationship,
part from their broader use with other words as pejoratives or
descriptives, like Eng. -ish: marâtre now actually means "mother."
Further the Italian preference for -igno forms remains unexplained:
it is due to the difficult combination of -tr- -tr- in matrasira, etc.,
which the Portuguese, Catalan and other languages have obviated by
simple dissimilation, -dr- -t- -d- -tr-. It is interesting that some
regions have not felt difficulty in this succession of sounds. Only
brief reference is made to questions of semantics; but the state-
ment that -aster is applied to frater for both genders is misleading;
fratellastra means not "half-sister" but "half-brother's wife."
It is not to be confused with the double use of servorge. It is the
pejorative connotation of -atre that has led to its practical displace-
ment by forms with beau- and belle-. Beau was used to a consid-
erable extent in medieval titles of address: beaus amis, etc. M.
Thomas has noted* that this mannerism has survived only for the
more distant relationships. Belle soeur, more courteous and formal
than ma soeur, was too stately for the home circle, but quite appro-
priate to kinship by marriage. For the forms cited by the author,
we may add that sorellastra is quite literary; besides matrigufo and
patrigino we have forms with d.
Diez' assumption of sororius > servorge has in its favor the
fact that sororius, as Mr. Patterson has noted, is an early Latin
word. The development -rf- > ge is indeed exceptional in the Ile
de France, but certainly not in the eastern dialects. Grober has
already designated servorge a lehnwort.6 Middle Latin sororius
may represent a true Vulgar Latin semantic change and be of a
nature quite different from that of servorgius, which Mr. Patterson
correctly interprets. There is no difficulty with the thought trans-
ferece, which is exactly parallel to that of fratellastro, etc., sister
like, brother-like; the doubling of gender is paralleled in figli "son

5 Cf. Pianigiani, Diz. etimologico della lingua ital., Roma, Albright-Segati,
1907, s. v. matrigufo; and Cohn, Suffixverwandlung, Halle, 1891, p. 168; and cf.
Morandi's Grammatica, p. 344.
6 Dict. Gén., s. v. beau-frère.
7 Archiv für lateinische lexicographie, V, 473.
and daughter.” Its vitality was assisted by the avoidance of pejorative -aster. The evidence for the survival of -icus is of no value: Sardinian and Rumanian represent archaic forms of Latin; they cannot serve as proof of the condition of continental Vulgar Latin posterior to the third century. Surely the Slavic and Celtic parallels are totally irrelevant unless supported by some evidence that these appearances are directly due to Latin influence. The forms cited for Huy and Liège by Godefroy may all be explained by sororius. We need to know more of the environment and history of serouque before we draw any general conclusions from it. This applies as well to the Neapolitan matreye and patreye. The theory of Greek influence has great probability from the fact that Greek was spoken in the Napoletano till the latest period of the Empire. Far from being incredible that -icus should have disappeared from words of this class, its ready failure may be explained, first because it is unaccented, and then by its frequency in other words of different meaning.

In spite, therefore, of the acute reasoning by which this interesting suggestion is supported, we are inclined to the traditional view of serouge < sororius. We may add that the orthographic scheme adopted by the author for dialect forms is open to some criticism: his rendering of Ven. -gn- is unnecessary and that of the Neapolitan and Albanian off-glide, unclear. Important dialect forms should be cited from documents, and need careful definition as to time and place.

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* Pușcaru, Tj, Gj, im Rumänischen, Ital. und Sard., Halle, 1904, pp. 5-18. Reservation must here be made for Christian missionaries, who, however, introduced only words of ecclesiastical nature.

* I am told that Slavic -ko is usually diminutive; that it appears in relatively few words of step-kinship, which are frequently rendered by circumlocutions. Slavic polnica sometimes means ‘step-mother’; some of the examples cited have -ca but with the sound tas.

* Budinsky, Die Ausbreitung der latein. Sprache, Berlin, 1881, p. 44.