

monly called the first, second, and fifth declensions, that is, all those of which the stem ends in *a*, *o*, or *e*; and the consonant declension, comprising all nouns of which the stem ends in a consonant, or the semi-consonants *i* and *u*. The stem of a noun always appears after the removal of the termination *ion* or *rum* of the genitive plural. Every Latin dictionary ought to mention the stem of a substantive, along with its nominative, as the genitive singular does not always show the real stem.

It can, moreover, be shown that originally all nouns were declined in the same manner, and the apparent differences have arisen from contraction and other euphonic changes. A good type of what the one original declension must have been is still preserved in what is commonly called the third declension.

§ 17. There are some points in which all declensions are still the same, namely:—

1. The Vocative, with few exceptions, is, in all declensions, like the nominative.
2. The Nominative is generally formed by adding *s* to the stem; but no neuter substantive takes *s* as the sign of the Nominative.
3. The Accusative Singular always ends in *m*, as is still the case in the English *him* and *whom*, from *he* and *who*.
4. The Accusative Plural always ends in *s*, preceded by a long vowel, the *m* of the accusative singular having been thrown out.
5. The Ablative Singular in all declensions originally ended in *d* or *ed*. In the first, second, fourth, and fifth, the *d* is dropped, and the *e* is contracted with the preceding vowel into *ā*, *ō*, *ū*, and *ē*; but in the third the short *e* is preserved.
6. The Dative Plural is always like the Ablative plural.
7. All Neuter nouns are the same in the Nominative, Accusative, and Vocative singular; and in the plural these three cases always end in *ā*.

CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST OR 2 DECLENSION.

§ 18. Latin nouns, both substantive and adjective, belonging to this declension, have a stem end in *a*, which is at the