

4. The following substantives have one meaning in the singular and another in the plural :—

Singular.

Aedēs, a temple.

Aqua, water.

Auxilium, help.

Carcēr, a prison.

Castrum, a fort.

Cōnitium, the place of meeting.

Cōpia, plenty.

Finis, the end.

Fortūna, fortune.

Grātia, favour.

Impēdimentum, a hindrance.

Littēra, a letter of the alphabet.

Lūdus, a play or school.

Opēra, work.

Opis (genitive of *ops*), help.

Rostrum, a beak.

Sāl, salt.

Tābula, tablet or picture.

Plural.

Aedēs, temples, or a house.

Aquae, waters, or mineral springs.

Auxilia, auxiliary troops.

Carcēres, prisons, or barriers in a racecourse.

Castra, a camp.

Comilia, the meeting, or assembly.

Cōpiae, military forces.

Fines, the boundary, territory.

Fortūnae, gifts of fortune.

Grātiae, thanks.

Impēdimenta, baggage.

Littērae, an epistle.

Lūdi, public games.

Opērae, workmen.

Opes, wealth.

Rostra, the platform in the Forum.

Sāles, wit or witty words.

Tabulae, writing tablets.

5. Some substantives occur only in some cases and not in others. Some of them are used only in the oblique cases, the nominative being wanting : as genitive *dapis* (from *daps*), of food ; *ditiōnis* (from *ditiō*), of dominion ; *frūgis* (from *frux*), of fruit ; *internēciōnis* (from *internēcio*), of destruction ; *opis* (from *ops*), help. *Fors*, chance, occurs only in the nominative and ablative singular. Of the obsolete *prex*, prayer, we have only the dative, accusative, and ablative singular, *prēci*, *prēcem*, and *prēce* ; the plural is complete. Of *viciis*, change, we have in the singular only the genitive *viciis*, the accusative *vicem*, and the ablative *vīce* ; its plural is complete, but wants the genitive. *Vis*, force, has in the singular, besides the nominative, only the accusative *vim*, and the ablative *vī* ; but the plural is complete, *vires*, *virium*, *viribus*. The following three words exist in the singular only in the ablative, but their plural is complete : *ambāgē* (circuit), *faucē* (throat), and *verbēre* (a blow). *Sponsē*, by inclination, occurs only in this ablative form. So also *jussū*, by order ; *natū*, by birth. Other defective nouns of this kind must be learned by practice and observation.

§ 37. Some substantives have two or more forms in the nominative, and accordingly belong to different declensions. They are called *Heteroclitica*—

1. Some fluctuate between the first and second declension : as *menda* and *mendum* (a fault) ; *vesper* (evening) makes the accusative *vesperum*, according to the second declension, while the ablative is commonly *vespērē* or *vespēri* (in the evening), according to the third.

2. Some substantives fluctuate between the second and fourth de-