THE NEW LANGUAGE INVENTED BY ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA

contrattore [contractor],
tracca [track],
picco [pick],
grosseria [grocery],
bordante [boarder].
scalloppini [it should be scaloppine] and tailors of cotti [coats].
pezze [pieces, meaning dollars],
bosso [boss] and
olivetta [elevated railroad].
naise [nice],
9hella

shovel became sciabola [in Italian it means saber] and the worker that uses it is a sciabolatore [in the sport of fencing sciabolatore is sabreur, a swordsman with a saber.]

Elevated railways became olivetta [little olive],

tunnel became *tonno* [tuna fish], later replaced by *tubo* [tube].

Mulberry Street, the center of New York's Little Italy became Mòrbeda, with obvious phonetic assonance with morbida [soft]. The town of Hoboken, in New Jersey, morphed into

Obocchino, resonant of bocchino [cigarette holder]. At the top of them all is

Broccolino, that transforms Brooklyn into a vegetable [small broccoli.]

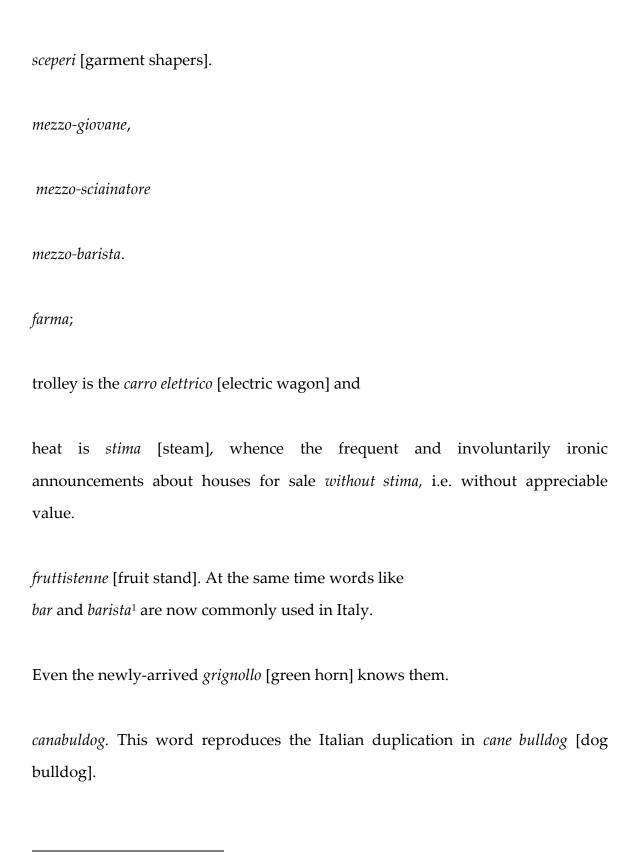
officer that, converted into the immigrants' language, became ufficiale.

coppetane designates New York's *Uptown*. This, at least, is the Neapolitan version. Sicilians say *oppitani*,

giobbisti [jobbers],

pressatori and sottopressatori [pressers, pressers' helpers],

operatori [operators] and



¹ Curiously, the word *barista*, an Italian neologism created on the root of the American word *bar*, has crossed the ocean in the opposite direction and is now used in the U.S. to identify a person working in an Italian-style coffee shop.

pizza-pie, which, translated into Italian, means pizza-pizza.

"Non andare lì che spogli la grassa." [Meaning: Don't go there or you will spoil the grass. Literal translation of *spogli la grassa*: you will undress the fat woman.]

"Siedo in giardino e rido il buco." [Meaning: I sit in the backyard and I read a book. Literal translation of rido il buco: I laugh at the hole.]