

LEARN ITALIAN

WITH the Rome Olympic Games three months off, there is a rush in Sydney to learn Italian.

Intending visitors to the Games have been squeezed into classes already large.

Some are being turned away from classes filled to capacity.

The Rome Games will be from August 25 to September 11.

Italian-born Mrs Lena Gustin, a teacher at Ashfield Evening College, one of the largest around Sydney, said this week: "From a small class the numbers have jumped to 35.

Variety

"I have heard of six people who will go to the Olympic Games if they can book passages and accommodation together."

Mrs Tess Hartcher, an English teacher who is learning Italian from Mrs Gustin, said: "The class has a wide variety of people learning Italian for many reasons.

"They include solicitors from all over Sydney who

find they need to speak the language to deal properly with increasing numbers of Italian-born clients.

"Dentists find they need it to converse with patients.

"A textile factory's forewoman and several cinema usherettes are learning it.

"Whether we like it or not, Italian is crowding in on us in the fashion world and other ways.

"You hear a lot of it in Parramatta Road shops and see it on advertising labels."

Some of the class go to Ashfield because they could not get into Workers' Educational Association classes.

W.E.A. general secretary Mr G. Shipp said three beginners' classes were full to capacity, with a total of 180 pupils. An advanced class taught 100 more.

The Berlitz School of Languages reported that numbers of intending visitors to Rome were inquiring for Italian-language records.



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UP TO THEIR GAMES

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, Saturday.—Racketeers calling themselves "mediators" are getting fees from Roman householders by promising to help them rent their homes to Olympic Games visitors.

The Italian Olympic Committee warns that these "illegal brokers," using the committee's name, are undertaking

to obtain high rentals for people who pay them a percentage for their services.

The committee's official bureau charges nothing for registering private accommodation available to visitors for the Games, to be held from August 25 to September 11.

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