

that is that phonetics form the only true introduction to all study of language, and that an artistic pronunciation of either a foreign language or of our own is scarcely possible without phonetic investigation and analysis. Phonetics form the sure basis for teaching elocution and oratory, yet a man may go through a distinguished college course, and be able to detect unerringly a wrong accent or a false quantity in a Greek prize poem, and be able neither to analyze phonetically many English words, nor to give an intelligent account of the elementary sounds of his mother tongue. This lack in university training in language is the great cause of the indifference of ordinary literary men to the importance of phonetic reform.

A CHEMICAL WONDER.—*Science* for July says that the chemical wonder of the London Inventions Exhibition is the manufacture of oxygen by the process of Brin frères. By an ingenious process they can take up oxygen from the air, through an artificial lung made of a hydrous oxide of barium. The air is drawn through a vessel of quicklime, which absorbs the carbonic acid and water and leaves only oxygen and nitrogen. The gases are then drawn off into the retorts, heated to 500° , and the artificial lung absorbs the oxygen, and the nitrogen is drawn off to a gasometer to be converted into ammonia, etc. The Brins claim that they have made a revolution in chemistry. Heretofore the lung of baryta had to be renewed every twenty-four hours, at great expense. They have made it virtually indestructible and unchangeable. They claim an almost fabulous reduction in the cost of production. The nitrogen at first wasted is, by an invention of these Brin brothers, converted into ammoniacal salts for manure. Oxygen in large quantities means a revolution in half the processes of chemical industries. For ventilation, ærating water without carbonic acid, for increasing the heat of blast furnaces, and the light of lamps, and for almost innumerable purposes, its uses are self-evident. With an indestructible lung for the instrument, and atmosphere as a reservoir, the supply of oxygen is practically infinite.