

TAMPERING WITH ORTHOEPY.

Temptation to tamper with pronunciation, if not to thoroly overhaul it, is almost irresistible to the spelling reformer, who, shrinking from his queer-looking words, finds that he can secure a comparatively natural-looking page by slight changes of pronunciation. Pitman, whose alfabet is on the hole admirabl, has a queer-looking type for *a* in *father*. He shuns its use. In a specimen of his printing selected by himself, we find it but once, tho pron. of dictionaris wud call for it 22 times. And so this noble sound, the leader in all alfabet, is buried in Pitman English. In a similar maner Pitman favors *o* in *not*; mainly, it wud seem, becauz he uses the comon type *o* for it, and new types for *o* in *no*, for *au* in *author*, *nor*, and for *u* in *but*, *son*. He lets the *o* stand in unaccented syllabls, and sometimes elswhere, for all three of these so diferent sounds. He prints it in the specimen just referd to 53 times, where the dictionaris wud give it only 24. If so eminent a leader as Pitman yields to temptation in this way, what can be expected of the minor alfabetical inventors? Yung fonologists also find it hard to rest with dictionary pronunciation. Microscopic investigation of living speech is just now the fashn, most novel and inviting field of original reserch. Why not use speling reform to prosecute such reserches? It is certny important scientific work.—*March*.

[The trubl is that inventors of alfabet force the language to fit their alfabet, insted of fitting their alfabet to the language. It reminds of what we can vouch for: A certn N. Y. surgeon was once fitting his club-foot shoe to a child, illustrating its action, adaptability, etc., when an Illinois doctor askt: "But what if the foot does'nt fit yur shoe?" "Why, (with emfasis) FIT YOUR SHOE TO THE FOOT, NOT THE FOOT TO THE SHOE: between fitting a foot to a shoe, and fitting a shoe to a foot, ther is is a— of a diference."—*Ed.*]

DIFERENCE OF PRONUNCIATION.

In practical use of any fonetic system, many questions of pronunciation, which have been hidn by ordinary speling, ar bro't into view, and demand anser. In consequence of the very abandonment of fonetic speling, [our speling was nearly fonetic a few centuris ago.] pronunciation of many words, especially in respect to unaccented vowels, has become obscure or unstable. In such cases no "authority" can be regarded as conclusiv. What is asumed to be a question of correctnes is ofn rather a question of conflicting analogis, of local usages, or dictionary-makers' pet theories, or of mere personal taste. Such questions do not admit of dogmatic treatment, but ar to be settl'd by evry man for himself, after due consid-

eration of diferent "authoritis," analogis and other means of determination. The rule is: make no change not plainly required by fonetic acuracy. When the sound is doubtful, let present speling stand.

It must be rememberd that these difficultis ar not the fault of fonetic speling. On the contrary, most of them ar a direct result of abandonment of fonetic speling, the restored use of which wil undoubtedly diminish such difficultis, and ultimately remove all that ar not inherent in the nature of our language.—*Buletin* 19.

SHORT SPELLINGS.—A. Wilder, M.D., Newark, N.J., rites to *Notes and Queris*: "The curent sets in for shorter spellings, and doutles this is beter. I don't approve of fonetic savageris, but radical reform shud be establisht in pronunciation [?] and orthograpy, and all peopis using Roman alfabet shud participate in it."

GRIM'S VIEWS.—Grim the great German filologist has said: "Altho French has for centuris been the comon language of Europ in a diplomatic and social sens, yet it has never obtaind a firm footing in large tracts of cuntry beyond Europ. On other hand, English may be considerd the language of the world outside of Europ, and this idiom (which by a bold mixture of Gothic and Roman elements, and by fusion of gramatical forms which this renderd necessary, has ataind an incomparabl degree of fluency) appears destind by nature, more than any other that exists, to become the world's language. Did not a whimsical, antiquated orthograpy stand in the way, the universality of this language wud be stil more evident, and we other Europeans may esteem ourselves fortunat that they hav not made this discovery." We hav seen these words credited to Rask, insted of Grim

HOW TO BEGIN.—In beginning to practis new speling, don't try to do too much. Take the tassel from *have*, *are*, *live*, *give*, etc. Bob *programme*, *though* and *catalogue*: spel them *program*, *tho* and *catalog*. When yu and yur readers hav got used to these, venture farther. If yu like to go by rule, look up the rules of Filologic Assoc'n, or, what is beter for evry beginner, the Two Rules* proposed by Dr. A. Hamilton, and used in Toronto *Herald*. This cours wil insure sucres, and wil make any jurnal more respected, becaus more progresiv, and yu wil be doing what yur conscience tels yu yu shud. By intelligent peopl, speling reform is now invtd. They want to no what it is. Who but editors of magazines and newspapers can sho it them?—*Fur. Amer. Orthocpy*.

*REVISED SPELLING: OMIT *u* solos loters. CHANGE *d* to *l*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, if sounded so.