

nounced by a single impulse of the voice : as *ea* in beat, *ou* in sound.

A triphthong, the union of three vowels pronounced in like manner ; as *eau* in beau, *iew* in view.

A proper diphthong is that in which both the vowels are sounded ; as *oi* in voice, *ou* in ounce.

An improper diphthong has but one of the vowels sounded ; as *ea* in eagle, *oa* in boat.

SYLLABLES.

A syllable is a sound either simple or compounded, pronounced by a single impulse of the voice, and constituting a word, or part of a word ; as, *a*, *an*, *ant*.

Spelling is the art of rightly dividing words into syllables ; or of expressing a word by its proper letters*.

WORDS.

Words are articulate sounds, used, by common consent, as signs of our ideas.

A word of one syllable is termed a monosyllable ; a word of two syllables, a dissyllable ; a word of three syllables, a trisyllable ; and a word of four or more syllables, a polysyllable.

All words are either primitive or derivative.

* Dr. Johnson's Dictionary is the best standard of English orthography.