

NEW SPELLING

that people id be bro't littl by littl to adopt beter word-forms rather than to insist on completed change at once.

COSMOPOLITAN ENGLISH.

During the present century the criterion of good English has ceased to be metropolitan, and has become national. Its standard is no longer the practice of London, but the average practice of educated men throughout the kingdom. It is admitted by historians of the language that, if London tendencies had their day, long ago wud have become as silent in London as it has long been in Paris, and that the characteristic sounds which wud ere now have vanished from the language. But these tendencies have been defeated by the resistance of the nation, and especially of the North. At present London seems bent on deleting r, but without much success outside her own immediate neighborhood. Still the influence of the metropolis is very great, and there is much fear lest the English of these islands may be led into an insular course fatal to its world-wide mission.

It is now necessary that the standard of good English shall be neither metropolitan, nor even national, but cosmopolitan; it must seek the suffrages of the best speakers of English everywhere. An English not just as intelligible in New York or Toronto or Melbourne as in London, is, for every highest purpose, bad English, and ought to be put down. There is no room for home rule or for State rights, or for any kind of particularism in the domain of our sovereign tongue. Her subjects have but one right, that of being pleasantly intelligible, each to all, and but one duty, that of making themselves so. It fortunately happens that there is perhaps greater earnestness in the pursuit of good English among large and widespread masses of Anglian people than ever before. Rightly guided, this feeling is strong enough to insure for all time the unity and pre-eminence of our common tongue, but if guided into the allowance and pursuit of local standards, however imposing, it will only hasten a particularist and necessarily divergent development, leading ultimately to dissolution of that which it seeks to honor and preserve.

The practical lessons to be drawn from these considerations by all speakers of English are two: (1) in all points wherein they feel that they are in accord with most other speakers of English, to observe most rigid conservatism; (2) in all other points, to favor change only if it brings them into wider agreement with other speakers than before. To fold these principles out into detail would require another article; but intelligently grasped, especially by the teaching community, they may be trusted to fulfil themselves.—R. J. LLOYD in Westminster Review, March, 1897. (Our aim should be to put this cosmopolitan speech in Orthography. Word-forms now in use indicate an archaic speech prevalent in the Tudor period. There has been no thorough revision since.—EDITOR.)

NEWS NOTES.

—Sir Isaac Pitman's Sons, Bath, offered to publish a small monthly as a month-piece for the Spelling League established 4th January, 1897 when Sir Isaac reached 80 years. In accord with this, Mr H. Drummond, Hetton-le-Hole, sent a circular to its 400 members. It asked minimum subscriptions of half-a-crown. But 30 replied, 12 subscribed—it deserved better.

—An article entitled "A Modern Babel" by J. P. Mahaffy, professor of Ancient History in Trinity College, Dublin, appeared in the 'Nineteenth Century' for November last. He argues with much force to have English a world-language for which it is so well adapted otherwise, were not its retched spelling in the way. From the second century B. C. Greek was a world-language for four centuries, made so by choosing a dialect, presumably Attic,

as standard, and by a system of marks or accents which lasts to our day it was made readily pronounceable by foreigners. He asks, cannot something like this be done for English? The article is logical, and well repay study.

—Mr Benn Pitman, a brother of Sir Isaac, resident in Cincinnati since 1833, has a memoir of his brother in preparation. This will supplement and bring up to date the life by Reed, published in 1890, —another version from another viewpoint.

—The Westminster Review for March has an article by Dr Lloyd, Liverpool, on "Can English be Preserved?" He dwells on separatist forces—one into many—and these that make for unity, without which it "wud as certainly fall to pieces as did Latin when the links that bound all Latin countries to Rome and to each other were done away." The final part of his article appears in another column as "Cosmopolitan English." Every reader of this should ponder well the whole subject.

—In Canada, newspapers are carried free to subscribers, with sample copies at one cent a pound—facts counted on before revival of these leaflets. A stir to abolish free transmission affects us—THE HERALD has twice been denied such transmission by the Postmaster-General, which may stop its publication unless its friends help in distribution. Every parcel must carry a stamp as tho a circular.

—Dr J. M. Rice, Philadelphia, has published a series of articles on educational subjects in THE FORUM within a year. Those for April and June, 1897, are on "The Futility of the Spelling Grind." His results are deduced from examinations of 33,000 pupils in schools. Two of his conclusions are noteworthy: first, approximate accuracy in spelling depends on time and continual repetition rather than on method; second, do not insist on the vocabulary, be satisfied with a smaller list.

—The French Chamber of Deputies has past a grant of \$800 to found a laboratory of experimental phonetics in the College of France attached to Prof. Breal's (breal) chair, Comparative Grammar, and in charge of Abbe Rousselot, (rus-103), the inventor of a machine of the class of Hensen's speech-recorder (see HERALD, vol. i, p. 102) and that known as the fonatographe. We saw the one belonging to the University of Chicago there in Sept., 1895, then believed to be the only one in America. In March, 1896, Prof. H. Schmidt-Wartenberg of Chicago delivered an address on "Experimental Phonetics" with exhibition of Rousselot's machine in motion and magnified tracings at the Canadian Institute, Toronto, before an interested audience of 150.

A PITMAN MEMORIAL.—A pamphlet has come to hand giving "Personal Tributes, Memorial Addresses and Funeral Proceedings" of the late Sir Isaac Pitman. Meetings have been held in London to have some suitable memorial of him made along with the sexagenary of his Fonography, invented in 1837. A large committee is at work. Mr E. A. Cope, 37 Cursitor St., Chancery Lane, London, is secretary. A circular tells us: "Many suggestions have been made as to the form which the proposed memorial should take, among which may be mentioned: (1) A statue in London or Bath; (2) The establishment of Sir I. Pitman scholarships, exhibitions, medals, libraries, etc.; (3) The formation of a Pitman Club for the convenience of London and country fonographers; (4) The promotion of a general scheme of Spelling Reform. The ult-