

the orthographic tangle will render the language so easy for foreigners to write that its use may become almost universal and the most diplomatic of languages.

Below we give a few of the rules so far formulated for the use of the reformed speller just to show that the reform is not impossible :

1. When offered a choice between ae and e, choose e; ex-esthetic, medieval.

2. Don't double the t in coquet, epaulet, etiquet, omelet.

3. Omit the silent terminal ue when allowed. Ex. catalog, pedagog, decalog.

4. Spell theatre, centre, etc., in the English way—center, theater, niter, miter.

5. Always omit u from words sometimes spelled with our, Ex. labor, rumor.

If this reform is successful it will differ from our present spelling about one-third as much as this differs from the spelling of Shakespeare. All the opponents of the changed order of things will become accustomed to it and many there are who predict that before many days have passed they will cease to criticize the President and its promoters and develop an expertness in the reformed spelling that will delight the English-speaking world.

Mr. E. F. Byrnes, then rose for the affirmative.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—Forces that bring about evolutions in a language operate of themselves and are set in motion, not by the arbitrary decision of a man but by the changing customs and manners of a people. It follows naturally, that a bold and arrogant attempt, on the part of a few Americans to disturb the system of English spelling, will at least be the subject of ridicule if not the object of censure.

Though perhaps the prime movers of this undertaking are men of judgement, from its very nature it tends to destroy the uniformity of the language. If such a thing were possible the first step to take would be to obtain the consent and influence of the whole English speaking world. The soundness of such a move depends not so much on the ability of the leaders as on the number of the followers.

When such a movement has gained head-way free from all restraint it is sure to go beyond all reasonable limits. In theory simplification seems laudable, in practice it might prove beneficial.