

sphere must afford the chief material for preliminary training, partly because it is the only family of speech that has been thoroughly worked, and partly because it is the only type of language with which all of us are familiar. A few of the profoundly interesting matters that ought to be more or less discussed are the following: laws of sound change within the Aryan group, which can at this stage be studied with some independence of judgment; the process of retroversion of current words in familiar use to their primitive forms within their respective dialects, and finally to the Indo-European originals; the working back again from these ancient types for the explanation of difficult or the defining of exceptional historic forms, and the right theories to explain such diverging phenomena, whether resting on subordinate, undiscovered and yet not irregular influences, or on the operation of the principle of analogy; and other questions that form the staple of contemporary linguistic discussion.

Beyond the Indo-European sphere, the work, though much less minute, must be equally exact and methodical. First of all, in order to appreciate the fact that most of the world is not Aryan, and to get some faint idea of its possibilities in the way of linguistic expression, it would be well that students of comparative philology should form some practical acquaintance with one or two non-Aryan idioms. For this end, I would suggest three distinct types, a sufficient knowledge of which for comparative purposes could be acquired in a few weeks. The great anthropologist Tylor recommends that enough Hebrew should be learned to enable one to spell out the first chapter of Genesis. If this is done with the right aim in view the result would be most beneficial, Hebrew being the most familiar example of the idiom

of the Semites, who are nearest to the Aryans in mental and moral constitution and history, their languages, moreover, being also of an inflectional type. Next, a summary view could be taken of one of the agglutinative idioms, say Turkish or Finnish, so that some insight might be had into the beginnings of the inflective tendency in languages whose growth was arrested in the combinatory stage.

Then, it would be of great advantage if one or two of our own Indian dialects were to be studied with a similar intelligent practical object. The result, I am sure, would be beneficial for our science as well as for our human feeling. With these equipments, involving no great outlay of time or energy, the subject of the classification of human languages generally could be successfully taken up.

Finally, the subject of phonetics should receive the attention it deserves, as the fundamental physical discipline whose application casts ever increasing light upon what was once the most obscure of all linguistic phenomena, the dislocations and distortions, amounting often to complete revolutions, that have taken place in every family of speech. Thus a study of phonetics, both from the physiological and the linguistic side, sufficient for an introduction to phonology, is indispensable, since phonology forms the *principia* of the whole science; and while in the observed facts of uttered language are found the phenomena that suggest and confirm the laws of phonological change, and the principles of comparative grammar, the organs that frame and perpetuate the living word reveal the ultimate physical processes that have conditioned the whole history of speech, and forever necessitate the reign of law within its spacious realm.