

In the main, the key alphabet conforms to international usage. For the pupil who should become accustomed to it the task of learning to pronounce Latin and German and most other European languages would be a comparatively small matter. The foreigner among us would find great help in a re-spelling of our words in this alphabet. It would furnish the primary teacher who wishes to use the phonetic method in teaching beginners to read, an authorized and complete alphabet, simple and easy for the children to learn to use, a tool never furnished to her before.

In order to have this key find its way into general use, there must, of course, be a call for it. Publishers must discover that the teachers of the country, those who come most directly in contact with the children, and who realize most fully the embarrassments and difficulty attending the use of the present diverse and complicated systems of key notation, desire and would appreciate the adoption of a simple uniform key system in all our books, and especially in our schoolbooks. Publishers cannot be expected to introduce such an improvement without feeling sure that there is a demand for it sufficient to justify the expense and risk involved in adopting it. It is for the teachers of the country to say whether such a call for a uniform key alphabet shall be clearly heard, and whether the royal seal of the National Education Association shall be placed upon the alphabet here recommended so that it shall always remain common property, perfectly open and free for use by all who will, and leaving no ground for business jealousy to make changes in it or refuse to adopt it on the claim that some rival publisher by earlier use has preempted it and thus put his private stamp upon it.

Any request for information in regard to this alphabet or its use, and any suggestion that may add to the value and helpfulness of our forthcoming final report will be welcomed and carefully considered. The capitals and script forms will appear in that report.

It is understood, of course, that the name of a vowel is its sound uttered distinctly. The systematic name of an explosive consonant and of *h*, *y*, and *w* is its sound followed by *i*; of any other consonants, its sound preceded by *e*. In the case of five consonants, however, the common names are submitted as optional because of the present advantage they may be in teaching beginners, particularly adults, to read by the phonetic method (in phonetic print) when they come to make the transition to common print.

A GREAT REVIEW ON ENGLISH SPELLING.

The North American Review, in review of Prof. Lounsbury's essays on "English Spelling and Spelling Reform" thus wrote:

"The whole book is so delightful it so abounds with the friendliest humor, the most courteous instruction; its erudition is so well mannered, its wisdom is so forbearing yet so persuasive that we wish it could be in the hands of every man, woman and child in the country. It is, perhaps, too mad to hope that the week or month will ever come when it shall be quoted among the best-selling books by the 'literary' and 'critical' periodicals; but if that week or month ever came, it would be of bright omen for a language now languishing under the vilest wrongs ever inflicted upon an innocent speech. We seek in vain among the customs of savage or barbarous people for a parallel of the grotesque misusage of English orthography. Nose-rings, foot-binding, tight-lacing, razor pointed shoes, tattooing, all these are emblematic of an advance in civilization far beyond that marked by our long-established, often disestablished, never re-established, spelling."

BULLETINS OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

No. 5. (19Sept.) points out that the tungsten lamps are 50% more profitable than the old electric carbon lamps.

It also calls attention to the advantage of the filtration of water supplies, in order to prevent typhoid epidemics, when the supply basin is open to accidental infection.

No. 6 (10Oct.) gives figures demonstrating the success of the "Hypochlorite Treatment" of water supply at Chicago.