

A BAD SPEL.—A clerk rote a chek for \$40 speling it "f-o-u-r-t-y." His employer directed his attention to his eror, remarking "yu seem to hav a bad *Spel* this morning." The clerk replied 'sure enuf, I've left out gh!'

ASAFETIDA.—In British Farmacopeia, this word is speld with dubl s and α , assafetida. In U. S. Farmacopeia it is 'asafetida.' The simpler appears the beter, becaus but one s is sounded. Again, as to α it shud be wel non that the best etymologists opose introduction of α and α into our language, they being alien imitations of Latin or Greek α and α ; for which we shud in general put e. Skeat's authority specially sanctions this.

A NOTATION WANTED.—We feel sadly the lak of some comon system for marking sounds acuratly. Each fonetist or lexicografer—but the terms ar by no means synonymus—adopts his own system, or no-system, and the general reader must grope among diferent methods of characterizing the same sound, with the conviction at last that each method is objectionabl. If fonetists, or sp. reformers, wil remedy this deficiency, they wil help wonderfully.—GARNET in *Am. Jur. Philology*, vol ii, p.488.

"FELDSPAR" AND PREJUDICE.—In *Science* for 14th Dec. yu say "the form 'felspar,' " tho rong, has been so long employd that "no one who prefers it can be criticized "for using it." It shud be aded that all other nations' Gr. Britan and her colonis (alone excepted), also 99 per centum of all mineralogic literature spel it with d (or t, if the language requires it) and they do so becaus etymologically right; that the English drop the letter becaus the eror Gr. Britan has persisted in until it has become English; and that such national prejudice is not legitimat ground for scientific action even in Gr. Britan. Years since, the riter, thinking, like n many others, uniformity in scientific nomenclature very desirabl, sent a short paper, giving the British history of the word, to London *Philologic Mag.*, but national prejudice proved superior to all other considerations. In this cuntry prejudice has no right; and transplanting its effects shud not be alowd to pas without protest.—S. D. D. in *Science*, 4 Jan., '89.

"HIT HIM AGAIN."

The Chicago organ of Chancellor Tuley's 'Christian Anarchists' tries to ridicule Mr Lawler's proposition to reform the 'official' orthograpy of this cuntry a litl.—*Chicago Globe*.

The presumptuous critic is more absurd than the Congressman, whose proposition is perfectly legitimat. He proposes that Congress shal direct public printer to omit silent letters at end of certn words, and substitute *f* in place of *ph*, a direction Congress is perfectly competent to giv, and ther ar much beter reasons for giving it than any

that can be set up against. The folloing words sho the proposed reform:

ACTUAL.	PROPOSED.
Epilogue,	Epilog.
Hypocrite,	Hypocrit.
Coquette,	Coquet.
Programme,	Program.
Philosophy,	Filosofy

The educated reader wil observ that Mr Lawler's proposed order is litl more than a proposition to discontinue the abominabl practice of speling onest English words in foren fashn—not les bad taste than aping foren manners, or foren pronunciation of our own language.

Epilog, *hypocrit*, and *filosofy* come from Greek *epilogos*, *hupocrites*, and *filosofia*. The Greek words ar here givn with Latin letters nearest in sound to the Greek letters. It wil be seen that in naturalization (or Anglicization) of Greek words Greek speling has *not* been strictly follod. We hav changed the Greek *os* in *epilogos*, to *ue*; Greek *hu*, in *hupocrites*, to *hy*, and suprest final *s*; and Greek *f*, in *filosofia*, to *ph*, changing also final *ia* to *y*.

Why hav we made these changes? The Greek alfabet contains no such letter as *ph*, but a letter calld *fi* by the Greeks, whose fonetic value is exactly *f*. What is ther "in either rime or reason" to warant our substitution of two letters *ph* in place of Greek *f*, fonetically our *f*? The historic fact is, that we recivd the abominabl *ph*, in Greek words containing the sound *f*, from Latin; but why the Romans butsherd Greek orthograpy in that style no man noeth; ner can any giv a cogent reason why we shud go on forever practising Roman sin. Other nations, whose languages hav come holely or mostly from Latin, hav rejected that absurdity. In Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, the orthograpy is *filosofia*, exactly the Greek orthograpy. Why shud not we spel it *filosofy*, both beter English and nearer the original Greek?

Coquette and *programme* ar French, not English; yet ar completely naturalized in English, except that, by many (possibly most) riters, their foren clothes ar retaind. We ridicule the "heathn Chinees," who tho he may be Americian by birth, persists in wearing garments, and the pigtail of Celestial ancestry to the latest generation. Is persistence in alien speling of words that ar English by naturalization, more rational or les ridiculus, than that inveterat alienizism of the Asiatic pagan!

No, it is not. Ther is, consequently, a steadily increasing number of educated peopl who reject alien speling in program, epigram, coquet, filosofy, etc., and spel them as they o't to be speld.—*Chicago Tribune*.