

orthoepy stil ruling. Stres on the second sylabl of a noun is not regular. A final dubl l or t helps point to g^zel, g^zet. This merciles slauter of all dubl consonants the Board's secretary advocated in print long ago, as did Dr Harley. Singl final consonants ar questionabl in *coquet, distil* (Latin *destil-*), *instil, quartet, quintet, septet, sextet*, as is l in *woolen*. æ and œ ar reduced to e, advocated generally by the secretary (see *Speling*, Mar. 1894). Is this satisfactory in general, however so in particular words? The SSB in these circulars proceeds on a safe basis which shud secure public aprobatation. Publishers then, in numbers stedily increasing, wil uze better wordforms.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF MODERN LANG. ASOC'N ON PROPOSED FONETIC ENG. ALFABET.

This pamflet of 10 pages is virtualy the minority report of the Joint Committee as noted on our p. 140. It is a unanimos deliverance (tho "one member voted with some misgivings" on use of j with its German value, our y) by Prof's Sheldon and Grandgent of Harvard, Bright of Johns Hopkins, Hempl of Michigan (removing to California) and Weeks of Misuri. 11 vowels and 22 consonants hav symbols—good! Of 12 points past on, the first 3 ar aproved (use of a, æ, a, as in NED) as is the last; the others ar questionabl. One old sign (a) now gets its proper value. Let another (o) be uzed properly; ø abolisht; and a good a-symbol put for misfit v. As result ther wud be almost perfect acord with NED, in line with which THE HERALD has been for sevn or eight years.

WIE IST DIE AUSSPRACHE DES DEUTSCHEN ZU LEHREN? VON WM Vietor, Prof. etc. Elwert, Marburg. 3d edition, 30 p. 12mo, 1 Mark.

Frankfurt teachers askt an adress (*Vortrag*) from Vietor on how German orthoepy shud be taut, as he is an authority on both normal German and its dialects. He lectured them on that and on what is normal German, most of his points being paraleld in English. He says: "Scool's shud teach a standard, unprovincial orthoepy, viz., the stage's North German as uzed in serios drama"—a masterly conclusion that deservs translation and reproduction.

A CRITICAL DISENTER,

I disent from yur opinion (p. 126) that ê wil not wel represent a in *fate*, as ê is uzed in french for open e, becaus, 1), In north Eng. and in Scotland e has the bro'd sound; 2), the sounds of one language ar not exactly those of another; 3), the circumflex, being most conspicuos, shud be uzed for the "long" sounds in *part, fate, pique, poke, prude*, leaving the acute one for the sharp sounds in *pat, pet, pit, pot, put*, the second of which is as near french

é as ê [?*], and releasing the grav accent for bro'd fones in *gun, pert, port*. So, english vowels hav signs that printers hav.

In *Christmas, handkerchief, often*, on p. 133, sound the evasis consonant.

I dislike Mr Tuttle's stereotyping vulgar and slovenly diction [orthoepy?].

In many respects american English is more corect and idiomatic than british (at any rate, cokny) uzage; but I prefer *hart ailment* to "hart trubl" (p. 134); *arange* for "fix"; *sumptuous* for "elegant." Rite parliament for parlement (p. 145, italian *parlamento*, ger. *parlament*); drop an n from "annually" on page 148.

N. E. D. is a broken reed to lean on in orthoepy—in some words, wel; in others, corectnes is cast to the winds if disagreeing with pronunciation fasionabl now at Oxford: as, *hagiology* is hædʒiɔl'odʒi, *combine* (n.) is kombəɪ'n. Even etymology is grosly rong. Among innumerabl erors I note: *Cheek* (impudence) is put under "of the features" with which it has no connection, being akin to german *keck*. I hav herd *cheekish* identical with the german *keckisch*.

E. A. PHIPSON.

[* French fête is from Old French *feste* (whence our *festal, festive, festival*) and its first sylabl rimed with *rest*, as it did in its erlier form, Folk-Latin *fest-*. Within three centuries French has dropt many an s after e, *mesme* becoming *même*, e.g., the e retaining its sound, but prolongd as is the rule in elision. This ê may be considerd ê with apostrofe (sign of elision) put before the grav accent to form a circumflex. Passy and all French foneticians, as gramarians generally, sharply distinguish it from é, which *corresponds* (tho not quite *coinciding*) with e in *they, grey, prey*. Like Fr. vowels generally, é has greater intensity (and, necesarily, les duration) than e, and with no vanish (i) any more than Italian vowels, which latter Skeat has taut (on our pages 142, 168) shud be taken as standard. Mr P. asks to hav Eng., Fr., Ger., etc., put with small initials. This is not a matter of speling at all, but of style. It is manifestly unwise for advocats of a simpler set of wordforms to mix up and cary extraneous subjects. We cary too much now. Impediments clog, trip, hinder and overweigh. Such can turn a scale.—ED.]

PROF. SKEAT SPEAKS OUT AGAIN.

[From adress before the British Academy in May last as cabled over.]

The real obstacl to speling reform lies in its oposers' ignorance. Partial reform recomended by Philological Societies in 1881 was ridiculed to deth by riters for the pres, ignorant of etymology and fonetics, totally unaware of their ignorance.