

BOOK NOTICE.

GERMAN PRONUNCIATION: Practico and Theory - The 'Best German,' German Sounds, and how they ar representated in Speling; the Letrs of the Alfabet, and their fonetic values, German Accent; Specimens. By W. Vietor, Ph. D., M. A., Prof. Eng. Philology, Marburg, and late Lecturer on Teutonic Languages. University College, Liverpool. Henniger Bro's Publishers, Heilbronn, 1885.

This litl book is a contribution to comparativ orthoepy. It is acurat and for the most part lucid. The German *o* as in *soll*, *von*, etc., is stated to be between the *o* in *wohl* and that in our word *or*. In other words, the *o* in *von* is between the vowel sounds in our *no* and *or*. The shape () is capabl of such modification as shal indicate international diferences. Thus we can hav () or other variety of modified *o* for print while the script form *o*ud be alike for all nations. Our *o* as in *not* is of very exceptional ocurence in German, if indeed it ocurs at all. This is but one of a host of points raised by an atentiv study of this litl work. It is in English and may be had of B. Westermann & Co., 524 Broadway New York.

JUST SO.—"As we understand it, what foneticians aim at is to drop useless letrs from words and hav them dressed in a befitting modern garb rather than in the whimsical tatters of antiquity."—*Shorthand Riter*.

GERMANY.—The substitution of *f* for *ph* and the omission of certain dubl vowels and silent letrs have been introduced by law in all the public scools of Prussia. Similar changes have been adopted in Hanover, Bavaria, Wirtemberg and Austria.—*Home Journal*.

TURKEY.—The Otoman Porte has decided on the constitution of an Academy for the Turkish language and has named some of the members.—These, according to the *Athenæum*, ar not non in western Europe. The object of the Academy appears to be chiefly to carry out a system of Speling Ref m in the department of public instruction—fonetic speling capabl of representing scientific and geographical terms.

PRINCIPLES OF SPELING REVISION.

(From *Home Journal*.)

- 1.—Begin with the simplest steps.
- 2.—Advance by moderat gradations that wil cause no break in the language.
- 3.—Conform speling to pronunciation in essentials, not attempting superfine distinctions.
- 4.—Follow as standard the pronunciation of the best speakers and cultivated peopl.
- 5.—Make only such new spelings as render at once the pronunciation more certain.
- 6.—Make only final changes such as wil not hav to be set aside in subsequent revisions.*
- 7.—Make changes by absolute rules without multiplying exceptions.
- 8.—Preserv, while useful in transition the traces of order and system already existing in orthography.
- 9.—Keep in view the co operation of reforms in pronunciation when desirable to restore breaks and and complete the regularity and symmetry of the language.
- 10.—Keep in view also the adoption of a comon standard of values among all nations izing the Roman alfabet

[*This principl we interpret to forbid any new expedient.—Ed]

F FOR PH.—Mr J. B. RUNDEL rites to the *Cristian World*: "One of the easiest changes to make is that of riting *f* for *ph* when the latter is sounded as *f*. This change is very simpl but very serching and it might wel be lookt upon as a "blue ribbon" for adoption by those persons who wish to mark their dissatisfaction with the current mode of speling but hav no time to spend over further alterations. Such words as *telegraf*, *folograf*, *paragraf*, etc., aford constant oportunitis for exhibiting the change. In Italian it has already been made."

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