

LITERATURE

TENTH REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD OF CANADA for the year ending 30th June, 1911. 198 large 8vo pages, King's Printer, Ottawa, 1912. Price, 15 cents.

This, an annual supplement to the Ninth or consolidated Report noticed on our p. 222, gives (pages 13 to 145) recent Decisions on many old or new names. Some years ago we called the attention of W. F. Maclean, M. P., to these Reports and the slowness of the Canadian press to use them. Others look at them languidly, but he forthwith introduced them into his morning daily, *The Toronto World*, where they have regular place with *tho*, *altho*, *thru*, and the rest has advented we chronicle therein over twelve years ago. This summer only have other newspapers begun to put in practice the Board's spellings. Timiskaming, Timagami (better Timaagami), etc., instead of Temiscamingue, Temagami, etc. So, Nipigon (p. 95) displaces Nepigon, Neepigon (*e* in these words sounds *i*, slipping toward or to its mate, *i*, as stress declines.)

ENGLISH AS WE SPEAK IT IN IRELAND, by P. W. Joyce, LL. D., 352 pages 12mo, cloth. Longmans, 2s 6d net.

Joyce treats many words in an interesting way from a vocabulary view-point, rather than that of pronunciation.

SOUNDS OF MOTHER TONGUE, a Manual of Speech Training for Preparatory and Lower Forms in Secondary Schools, and for Vth, VIth or VIIth forms in Elementary Schools, by L. H. Althaus. 75 pages 12mo, cloth. Hodder and Stoughton for Univ. of London Press. 2s net.

Mrs Althaus, Leeds, organizing mistress for modern languages in Yorkshir schools, had experience there in 3d and 4th forms wherein French and German were begun by drills in orthoepy, with results so excellent that she asked to begin with pronunciation of English in 2d form (just from kindergarten), such drills in mother-tongue being a valuable introduction to French and German later. Long ago we taught that fonetics (syllable-analysis and -synthesis at least) begin in kinderg., wherein no books are used. Such method is likely to come in soon, as it is seen now that then pupils were at

"an age when the organs of speech and hearing were most supple and responsive.—Page 7.

"In Scotland, scientific knowledge of sounds of not only Mother-tongue but English (?) is exacted of all Elementary Teachers of reading; courses in fonetics multiply each year in England and abroad. . . . a year's work on mother-tongue sounds immediately preceding Modern Language study would be inestimable for children's general speech habits in their own tongue; in preparation for foreign ones an economy of time almost incalculable."—Page 6.

Its didactic note rings clear and true, and throughout is acceptable in the main. Faults: NED is not folded in orthoepy, for, first, *r* is dropped after a vowel; second, *i*, *e*, *o*, *u*, are *iy*, *ei*, *ou*, *uw*; third, *when*, etc., have *ai*,

voiceless *w*; and *when* is (not *hwen*, as in NED, but) *men*; fourth, *oi* in *oil* is better than *oi*. In *twice* and *now*, *ai* and *au* are acceptable under Sweet's dictum:

ai and *au* are symbols, not of special diphthongs, but of two classes of diphthongs which begin with a vowel resembling Italian *a*, and end with approximations to *i* and *u*.—*Ency. Brit.*, xxi, p. 461.

Pair, *pare*, *pear*, etc., have *e* ('*pɛ:ə*', p. 63). By *e* is meant *e* in *let*, but tense ("narrow"), our *e*', which certainly prevails before dropped *r* in many parts of England, while *e* with *r* well trilled is common in Scotland, and *æ* (either prolonged or half tense) in America. NED has *pɛ̃ːi*, with *e* prolonged (our *e*') and reverted *r*. We favor *pɛːr* in pronunciation, *pear* in New Spelling.

N.E.A. FONETIC ALFABET, with a Review of the Whipple Experiments, by R. Weeks, J. W. Bright, C. H. Grandgent. 91 pages 16mo. New Era Printing Co., Lancaster, Pa.

N. E. A. ALFABET AND THE NEW SPELLINGS OF THE SSS, by Raymond Weeks, 5 pages.

When the Joint Committee, 1904, made its Report on an alphabet (see our p. 140), the filologic wing brought out a minority report (p. 167) more acceptable to us, as said, and approved by the Amer. Phil. Soc'n at its meeting, Dec., 1905. Next the Nat'l Educat'l Soc'n made a compromise alphabet, (compromises are seldom final), published Oct., 1910. It had (beside supplementary signs for *a* in *ask* and *about*, with our *i* misused for *i* in *candid*, or *o* in *added*) 8 vowel-signs (*a e i o u a e u*) made into 8 questionable pairs by a makron, avoiding misuse of circumflex for that, but still with two symbols (*a*, *o*) misused, and with an *u*-sign (*u*) for an *a*-sound. It should use *a* as NED does and drop *o* as impracticable. Yet the Am. Phil. Soc'n at Pittsburg last December managed to swallow this NEA alphabet, but with this significant rider:

"Voted, That this resolution be not construed as in any way abrogating the Association's approval on 29th Dec., 1905, of the original and more scientific form of this alphabet."

so, the end is not yet. Meantime, in 1911, Assistant Prof. Whipple, in the Educat'l Laboratory at Cornell University, undertook observations on classes of students there, to find out which wordforms were most legible, NEA wordforms or ones with Websterian diacritics, a trial hardly fair because most students in "the States" are already familiar with Webster. His conclusions were a sweet morsel to publisher of Webster. Then Weeks & Co. whipped Whipl in the larger pamphlet. The other compares the old-letter plan of the SSS with the NEA wordforms.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS

"Forging an Alphabet" would make a good heading for the foregoing notice of two pamphlets. The controversial anvil rings. There is "Much to