

18. l.—Drop *l* in *could*.
19. p.—Drop *p* in *receipt*.
20. s.—Drop *s* in *aisle, demesne, island*.
Change *s* to *z* in distinctiv words, as in *abuse* verb, *house* verb, *rise* verb, etc.
21. sc.—Drop *c* in *scent, scythe* (sithe).
22. tch.—Drop *t*, as in *catch, pitch, witch*, etc.
23. w.—Drop *w* in *whole*.
24. ph.—Write *f* for *ph*, as in *philosophy, sphere*, etc.

During 1882 and 1883 communications passed between the American Philological Association and the Philological Society of England with a view to the promulgation of a joint recommendation. The final result was the adoption by the English Society of the 24 rules, which were published in 1883 in both countries with the joint endorsement of these two learned bodies. Since that time they have taken no further action, the work of propagandism being left to other agencies. Their task was a scientific one, and the standing of the eminent scholars who spent at it most of their time for ten years is an ample guarantee of the reasonableness of the changes they propose. These changes have been accepted by scholars with singular unanimity. All the leading philologists on both sides of the Atlantic—including Max-Mueller, Sayce, Skeat, Sweet, Ellis, Murray, Morris, Angus, Morrell, and others in England; and Whitney, Child, Haldeman, March, Lounsbury, Harrison, Sharp, Carpenter, Corson, Scott and others in the United States—have either taken part in the work of elaborating the new rules or expressed their unqualified approval of them. The once formidable philological objection to 'spelling reform' is now rarely heard, and is put forward only by those who are sarcastically described by Mr. Sweet as "half trained dabblers in etymology."

So far as scientific and scholarly endorsement is concerned the action of the two philological societies leaves nothing to be desired, but the work of overcoming official prejudice and popular *vis inertia* has not yet been accomplished. The most important agencies at work to secure the general and official acceptance of the 24 rules are the English and American spelling Reform Associations. The former has succeeded in arousing a great deal of interest in the subject amongst teachers, and many of the Government inspectors in England favor a relaxation of the standard in the matter of spelling. Efforts have been made to secure the permission of the educational authorities, but as yet without success. The late Sir Charles Reed, who was from 1870 to 1883, Chairman of the London School Board, earnestly promoted the movement, but since his death no one seems to have taken his place in this respect.

The American Spelling Reform Association was organized at Philadelphia in 1875, and it has met yearly or oftener ever since. Like the English Association it includes in its membership nearly all the

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