

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMPARISON OF SCHEMES.

Is it not posibl to hav a comparison of schemes of Amended Speling on the foloing plan : Select a pasage suitabl in length and otherwise as a test. Let each author submit the pasage spelt in acordans with his own scheme, all to be printed side by side, each author to bear his own share of expens.

The Eng. S. R. A. has adopted a number of general principls in acordans with which New Speling shud be constructed. In substance they wer . A symbol for evry sound, the New Sp. to be easy to Print. Teach, Rite and Read by present Readers. These conditions wer paramount. Other considerations wer relegated to a subordinat position. Among the latr may be mentiond : Analogis of Foren l.anguages, similar sounds to hav similar shape, difthongs to be represented by their elements, &c., &c.

Nobody objects to new lettrs on principl, but evrybody feels the practical difficultis encounterd in their introduction. Ther is but one printing office in Eng, where new lettrs can be had, and the variety of fonts is limited. If I wish to illustrate Sp. by Sound in a newspaper it canot be done with new lettrs. An articl with present lettrs can be sent across the Atlântic and printed with accuracy in type of any size.

My good friend, Mr. Knudsen, of S. Norwalk, Conn., is so earnest, so able, and so persevering that I wud be glad to come to nearer acord with him. A great obstacl wud be removed if we got rid of the idea that similar vowel sounds shud hav symbols of similar shape, as we have got rid of that idea as regards consonants. *Ch* and *j* represent sounds which pair ; but where is the resemblance in shape ?

E. JONES.

Liverpool, Eng.

[The *Furnal of Amer. Orthocpy*, publisht monthly at Ringos, N.J., \$1 a year, wil iustrate schemes during the year, under Mr. Jones' supervision. Those interested shud subscribe.—Ed.]

VOWEL PAIRS.

SIR,—In yur last, yu say that “two vowels ar exact pairs when they differ in quantity only, and not in quality,” and that in this sens ther ar no exact pairs. I maintain that several vowels do pair so nearly at least that a comon ear canot detect the slightest difference except in quantity. If vowels differ in quantity only, a prolongation of the short vowel produces the corresponding long. Yu admit that this is *almost* (I say *holly*) the case with *ell* and *ale* and also with the vowels in *foot* and *food*. Yu surely do not ask us to believ it is the same with *ill* and *eel*, or with

those in *not* and *father*, altho yu contrive to pair these vowels in some way to me unintelligibl. The relationship appears to me perfect in *odd* and *awed* ; also in the vowels in *at* and *father*.

JOHN WATSON.

Catonsville, Md.

[Quantity has nothing to do with vowels pairing. They pair aproximatly, not exactly, and betr the les they differ in quality. In quality, the twelv vowels ar as distinct to our ear as twelv men in a jury box ar to our eye—tho related to one another, stil individualized. The first v. in *fodder* aproximates that in *father* more closely than that in *former*, and makes the closest pair of all. Arranging them in order of proximity, they ar 1. *fodder* and *father* ; 2. *full* and *fool* ; 3. *fill* and *feel* ; 4. *fell* and *fail*. The other vowels do not aproximate near enuf to deserv to be paird, Who wud claim *note* and *nut* as a good pair ? Manifestly, Mr. W. does not pronounce *odd* and *father* as we do. With this we leav it to our readers.—Ed.]

VOWEL PAIRS—DIFTHONGS.

SIR,—I tho't it understood by evrybody that aranging the twelv vowel scale in six pairs was not strictly tru, but a stenografic convenience. The six short vowels ar certainly not always mates for the six long—not of the same quality.

As to difthongs, I wud, for sake of peace and unity, provide singl signs for those who canot determin the [so-calld] elements of difthongs. Then evry man cud spel acordng to his convictions. Yu wud rite *haus*, and I, *haus* (house.) Pitman wud spel his name *Eizak* ; I wud spel it *Aizak*.

J. H. KIDDER.

Owego, N. Y.

AN ENLARGED ALFABET.

SIR,—I believ that a jurnal advocating an enlarged alfabet, and doing its best to get a good one cud be *sustained in time*. Half-way alfabets wil never succeed, and never o't to succeed. Twelv vowels, four glide vowels and twenty-six consonants wil make a good alfabet, leaving out shade vowels as holly unnecessary. Use the same vowel sign in *fame* and *fare* ; use *e* in *let* and *earth*,

JOEL MYERS.

Oberlin, Ohio.

—Dr. W. Vietor, Prof. of English Filology in University of Marburg, Prussia, rote us that he wud start in April a new periodical devoted to Phonetics, or the Science of Speech-sounds. Ther wil be three or four parts issud yearly. The parts wil hav 70 or 80 pages each. We hav received the second edition (1887) of his *Elemente der Phonetik* and shal notice it shortly.