

—An excellent *résumé* of *pro* and *contra* in the reform of French spelling appeared in the New York Nation of 20th April. It gives the attitude of the government or progressive party, and how far the Academy yields, how far opposes.

—The considerable changes promulgated by a decree of the French Minister of Public Instruction, on 26 Feb. 1901, affected syntax chiefly, rather than spelling. It is otherwise this time.

—The French Academy's chief ground of opposition is the etymologic one. Thus, rhapsode (for rhapsody) is allowed, tho' derived from Greek aspirated *r* (*rh*), because in Midl French (as in Cotgrave's dictionary, 1660) it was so speld. Altogether it permits reform in about 150 words: as confidential for confidenciel, poteuciel for potentiel, and seven words in -ou (*chou*, *caillon*, *bijou*, etc., which took *x* in the plural) may now be ritn with *s* like *clou* and *sou*.

—Our Type-Fund received a donation of 60 cents from Mr E. B. Thornton, Addison, N. Y. This totals \$20.35 less a liability for three new punches to be cut at \$3 each, contracted for last fall but not delivered yet (May 25th). Mr N. J. Werner kindly made drawings for the punches. Delay is due to some unexplained hocus-pocus at the type foundry in Communipaw, N. J. All Dr Larison's punches wer lost in the great Baltimore fire in 1903. Our three ar part of a new lot for him, cast to match the font of Century Expanded 8-point illustrated on our p. 113. \$20.35--\$9 leaves \$11.35. A 50-lb font with italic and some necessary sorts and cases wud cost about \$34.

—Its twenty-third article on Fonotopy appeared in The British & Colonial Printer & Stationer of 9th Feb. (2 pence weekly, 58 Shoe Lane, London E. C., Eng.) It deals with THE HERALD's work fairly, giving as specimen of Amended Spelling ("propagation of which is its chief *raison d'être*") part of our first page dated October last. For a specimen of New Spelling it goes rather far bak to McKay's lines (vol. i, p. 48) in an alphabet promulgated in 1884 before Northumberland Co. Teachers' Aso'n, and which, slightly revized, we uze yet. Passy's journal and work on the plane of ful fonetics receives notice and liberal illustration. Dr Tho's Hill's work is treated and exemplified by a page from his First Lesons in Geometry. Briefer mention is made of Fernald, Pierce, Collings, Campbell, Rogers, Bishop Taylor, Bancroft, Lord Tennyson, Simpson, Parker, Coombs, Molee, Lecky and Prof. March.

—A complete file of THE HERALD, 352 pages, may be consulted in the book department of the British Museum, London W. C.

—"How to get the Almighty Dolar behind Spelling Reform" is a 4-page leaflet of which Mr G. W. Wishard, North Tarrytown, N. Y., issues an edition of 25,000. Help him to get them red by the right peopl. He wil send a supply for distribution to any applicant. He wud overcome public vis inertiae by having the pres subsidized to introduce gradually a New Spelling: for "a billion dollars wud put the United States and the British Empire in a fonetic paradise."

—Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary* is finisht to the last word (zwober) folod by some words laid over during the dictionary's progres for treatment later, with a few corrigenda and a ful and excellent bibliografy.

—Wright's *Dialect Grammar* (heralded on our p. 70) is promist this year. It appears to be ment as a Complement or Supplement to the dictionary proper, to be bound with it (?)

—Wright's work deals more fully with speech in the larger iland, but Irish speech gets a fair share of attention—all the more important because of the enormous influence it has had on

American speech, itself rather meagerly treated as Wright had but slim material to work with, a matter that shud be "taken up in good earnest, with all accuracy," as Max Mueller said.

—How the gutturals in Arabic ar made has not been cleared up, Sweet's teaching that they wer made by contraction of the loer end of the cartilaginos larynx being untenabl. Later, Sweet (*Le Maitre Phon.*, March 1901) says; "An American student, Mr P. W. Carhart, surprised me by the eas with which he pronounced the throat his(s), attributed to his being acustomd when a boy to imitate the asthmatic wheez of a broken-winded-horse. He agreed with me in locating the contraction very far down."

Spasmodic asthma in man with its cooing and wheezing rales is much like heavs in the horse. With like pathology (spasm of bronchial musls) they ar helpt by like treatment. It has long been a question among fysiologists whether the bronchial musls acted voluntarily or belongd to the involuntary system. Certnly voluntary musls may hav involuntary spasm, constituting disease. If the bronchial musls ar proved voluntary, we no no reason why Carhart cud not produce the requisit imitativ contraction by wil.

—The International Fonetic Aso'n has 40 members in the United States, 22 in Canada, 47 in Chile, 29 in Finland, 99 in Denmark.

#### LITERATURE

SONGS OF THE GLENS OF ANTRIM by Moira O'Neill, author of 'The Elf Errant,' etc. 61 p. 12mo, boards. Blackwood.

BALLADS OF DOWN, by G. F. Savage-Armstrong, M.A., D.LIT. 384 pages 12mo, cloth. Longmans, Green & Co. 7s 6d.

PAT M'CARRY, FARMER, OF ANTRIM, His Rhymes, with a Setting, by John Stevenson, 351 pages crown 8vo, cloth. Arnold, 6s net.

Antrim and Down ar Irish counties near Scotland. While Williams (*Mod. Lang. Quarterly*, Dec. 1903) first attempts to set forth Belfast speech acurately (Belfast is in both Antrim and Down) these volumes giv a literature to corespond. The *Ballads* ar by "the poet of Wicklow," professor of English literature in Queens College, Cork, a descendant of the Norman Savages who setld Down in the twelfth century. A good glosary is furnisht, with which a filologic study of this speech may be made, supplemented by Patterson's *Glossy of Antrim & Down* (Eng. Dialect Soc., 1880). We wish Prof. S-A. wud rite for this dialect as good an introduction (for which he is competent) as did Lowell for his. He says it

"is a veritabl dialect, not 'Irish brogue,' mere mispronunciation and ignorant misuse of standard English. Historically the Down dialect, with its variants, is an Ulster development of Loland-Scottish—principally Ayrshir—bro't by Scottish settlers in the reign of James I, tho a Loland-Scottish element is noticeabl in old Ulster documents ritn in English prior to that. The dialect is more or les markt according to locality and to the degree of the speaker's education. Some pesants hav it so strongly as to be hardly intelligibl to a stranger; some sho litt trace of it."—Page 375.

With this compare Williams' statement:

Modern Northern Irish represents a type of traditional pronunciation originally English, and which probably exercised its influence all over Ireland, not in the North alone. Oing to the large