

society of some four thousand two hundred members, which aims to do away with the Chinese characters in Japanese literature."

PHONETICS IN COLLEGES.—There is one class of men who, beside the absolutely ignorant, offer opposition to phonetic reform, and it is composed of many of the ordinary men of letters and the professors of ornamental scholarship. The philologists in professorial chairs and out of them are of but one voice in this matter, and the practical linguists are falling in line now as phonetic alphabets are coming into use in studying foreign languages, some going so far as to propose the use of some system of shorthand to represent all sounds of all languages. No language can be mastered thoroughly except through a phonetic notation. In the matter of phonetics England leads, but the results reached have been the outcome of private study, and while eagerly appropriated by scholars and professors abroad, they have been treated with indifference by the English universities. England and America cannot boast of the provision made in the universities for the study of French and German, which is wretched in the extreme; and, at the same time, modern English, which should be the basis of philological study for Englishmen, is studied more thoroughly and on better methods in foreign universities than in our own. If French and German, in connection with the English, were brought under the treatment of a "living philology," embracing both phonetics and psychology, by teachers appointed in our universities, new vigor would be infused into the study. Then scholars and literary men would be led to see the value of phonetics. Mr. A. J. Ellis claims that he can read Chaucer in a way which Chaucer himself would understand, and which preserves the music of many of his lines. "It would become possible to produce a Greek play with a style of pronunciation in harmony both with history and with the quantitative metre of ancient prosody, instead of the modernized doggerel now in vogue on such occasions." One thing our colleges should recognize, and