

MEDICAL TERMS.

The Amer. Medical Asoc'n meets annually and at it medical editors meet as Amer. Med. Editors Assoc'n. When they met at Atlanta, Ga, in May, 1896, Geo. M. Gould, A. M., M. D., of Philadelphia, editor of an important medical journal and two justly popular medical dictionaries, read a paper in which, says the *Dental Digest*, he pled long and earnestly for gradual adoption of simpler spelling, that must come in time:

"Specifically, the microscopic modifications I urge are:—

"1. Abolish in English words archaic, unnecessary, bothersome æ and œ supplanting them by e.

"2. Ceasing tautological adjectives having already one adjectival suffix -ic—already done in thousands of words; finish the job. As, prosaic for prosaical.

"3. Drop the useless hyphen in words whose parts are derived from classic languages. In ten thousand words you have already done so; finish with the rest. Retain the hyphen in such compound terms as express a single idea by two semiferrous English words, especially when both are nouns; as antitoxin (not anti-toxin), cadaver, postmortem, ventrifixation, etc. Keep the hyphen, because necessary to avoid confusion and doubt, in curet-spoon, hart-mur-mur, skin-diseases, sleeping-sickness, etc.

"4. Drop useless -te from curet, brunet, fourchet, etiquette, cigaret, etc. You have already lopt it off from cutlet, doublet, quartet, quin et, sextet, septet, rake, minuet, fillet, corset, stylet, tourniquet, bouquet, etc.; finish the job. Cut off useless -me from many words, riting program, gram, centigram, etc., just as already we do telegam, anagram, diagam, epigram; let's make an end of it.

"5. Use figures instead of spelling out numbers, at least above ten.

"6. Anglicize foreign terms when a goodly proportion of your readers will not understand them in the originals. Use italics as little as possible; use as few foreign words and terms as possible, because the vast majority of your audience cannot understand them (even if you do); and because there is a deal of silly conceit in airing exotics of speech.

"7. As to chemic terms, accept recommendations of Am. Assoc'n for Adv't of Science, which, after years of dispassionate investigation, advised dropping final e in bromid, iodid, bromin, iodin, atropin, quinin, etc. Say fenol for carbolic acid, glycerol instead of glycerin, etc.

"8. Abolish diacritics and accents. They cannot teach pronunciation; they are useless luggage. Let us rite oophorectomy, cooperation, ptomain, leukomain, etc., without the dieresis. When a foreign word is Anglicized let us do it completely, and not drag into our domain exotics of foreign habit, leaving it, e. g., neither English nor French. To poets leave the acute, grave, and circumflex accents, foreign to the spirit of our tongue.

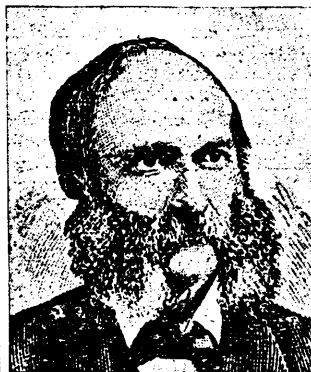
"Finally, consider the source and secret reasons for opposition to the foregoing. Ignorance—colossal, imperturbable, impertinent ignorance characterizes much of it. Read, e. g., the letters in the 'British Medical Journal' from correspondents (not editorial utterances, because the editors no better, and have publicly advised dropping æ and œ), and you will see these objectors haven't studied filology five minutes and live in an antediluvian world.

"Again, you will very often find the secret influence of the commercial medical publisher at work. He publishes a dictionary committed to old ways, then prints journals and books in the archaic language [word-forms] of his dictionary. It means expensiveness and loss of money to him in very many ways to have his "authoritis" supplanted. Not only can there be no valid objection to such simplified spelling, but there are many good reasons for its use. We must get out of this thralldom of foolish, difficult and heterogeneous spelling."

It is hard to kick against both unreasoning ignorance and sordid interest. Dr G. cannot do a better piece of work than to get medical editors and publishers into line. Chemists have come into line through efforts of Assoc'n for Advancement of Science; geographic terms have been much rectified in spelling by action of Geographic Societies. Let medical terms be brought into line with those of chemists and geographers. Dr Gould should "finish the job."

OBITUARY:—D. P. LINDSLEY.

DAVID PHILIP LINDSLEY, born in 1834, died at his home in Springfield, Conn., in March last, after a few weeks illness. He graduated at Union College and seminary, as a member of the Harvard Divinity School, was a clergyman in earlier life, having charge of a congregation at Meriden, Conn. Later, he devoted himself to brachygraphy, of which he was inventor. It was a system of fonetic shorthand with vowels and consonants written conjointly; there-



fore a variant of Phonography. As its originator he published *The Rapid Writer*, after 1881 called *The Shorthand Writer*.

LINDSLEY was of refined character, scholarly tastes, and humane sympathies, devotedly attached to the cause of human education, a life-long, self-denying, active worker in all that to be for the betterment of his fellow-men—an intensely earnest, industrious and enthusiastic reformer, so much so that he was often stirred to the boiling-over point of indignation at the apathy of people, or their slowness to accept or act on what seemed to him so plainly to their advantage, if not their duty to adopt. We have to thank *The Phonographic Magazine*, Cincinnati, Ohio, for the illustration of his features.

For spelling reform LINDSLEY accomplished two pieces of good work: first, amending spelling by omissions and changes in certain classes of words specified by rule—resulting in the 24 Joint Rules; second, with help of Mr E. Jones, B. A., Liverpool, he assembled the Centennial Convention for four days in August, 1876, Prof's Beard, De Graff, and Hagar also signing the original call. This resulted in the formation of the American Spelling Reform Association, and in 1879 of the English one. A second meeting took place at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, in October, 1876. He was corresponding secretary and treasurer for the association, doing for it a great amount of correspondence and other work unpaid. This was in its earlier years; later, he was less active. In *The Rapid Writer* so far back as October, 1869, is found the first germ of the Rules in an article entitled "The Spelling Reform." It suggests, first, riting head, dead, tread, etc., heil, ded, tred, etc.; second, omitting final e from have, give, live, etc.; third, omitting u from -ous in serious, glorious, various, etc. It reads "This is the first step. The Rapid Writer begs the privilege of conferring to the analogy of mother tongue." In October, 1872, he gives the same rules with list of words affected extended to include those in -ile, -ine, -ite, -ive, as facil, examin, infinit, nativ, etc. In October, 1874, he issued *Four Steps*, most of which have proven acceptable. He did not advocate new letters. Always a fonetician, but conservative, he hoped