

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 46.

TORONTO, CANADA, April, 1909.

N^R. 96.

NEW ENGLAND INVADED.

According to Census Bulletin 22, children born of native parents 1890 to 1900 decreased 13 percent, while children of foreign-born parents increased 44 percent. Mr Kuczynski concludes: "after careful consideration of Massachusetts, the native population is dying out. If so, the people who supplanted Indians are supplanted by immigrants."—"A Year Among Americans" by London Times correspondent copied into *Living Age*, 15 Feb. '08.

Midtown, Conn., is a typical New England city, 250 years old, and very conservative in temper. Until recent years the native element was everywhere supreme. Within 25 years the population (now 19000) has been doubled by Swedes, Germans, Italians, Poles and Canadian French. So far the effect on the language is not very marked though the distinctive speech of the older and less educated natives becomes rarer daily. —*Dialect Notes*, vol. iii, p. 1.

ELEMENTS OF VOWELS.

In vowels we distinguish: quality (*timbre*), quantity, intensity, sharpness (*acuité*).

Timbre is the vowel's essential quality, what constitutes its individuality. It results (in a physiologic view-point) from organic movements peculiar to each vocalic articulation; (in a physical view-point) from superposition, on the fundamental laryngeal sound, of secondary resonances, of the same origin in normal conditions, but reinforced in the upper cavities.

Instead of counting as many vowels as there are qualities perceptible [to the ear], we group, for greater convenience, vowels by families (*séries*) and say that vowels of each family are distinguished among themselves by quality.....

Quality is characterized physically by particular sounds more or less sharp; whence the appellations flat quality, sharp quality: *é* is sharp; *è* is flat.

Again, differences of quality may be referred to differences of openness and closeness of the vocal organ at the point where the

vowel is produced. *é* (sharp) is at the same time e-close, *è* (flat) is an open e.

As this distinction is grasped easily, we extend it to all vowels; and, instead of referring to the ear to characterize shades, we hold to what sight and sense-of-touch teach. Thus, we classify vowels as open, close and medium (where of intermediate degree).

Quality is modified again according as air passes by mouth alone, or by mouth and nose together: a new distinction of vowels into *oral* (pure) and *nasal*.

Quantity is the vowel's duration.....

Intensity is the degree of force with which the vowel is pronounced.

Sharpness (*acuité*) is the vowel's musical height.—ROUSSELOT in *Precis de Pron. Franc.*, p. 27.

[All this is from a French standpoint. By *acuité* pitch seems meant; not sure of it, we render it sharpness. Intensity is synonymous with loudness. We prefer to read: Quantity is measured by duration; true, if remembered that of French Ellis says

The former should pronounce each syllable that is not weak with about equal force and length and hurry over weak syllables as fast and lightly as he can.—*Pron. for Singers*, page 106.

So, neglecting weak syllables, duration measures quantity (or $q \propto d$)—not true of English, wherein stress bobs up and down, like a steam-gauge, and duration the same, and quantity is a compound function of stress and duration, or $q = f(s, d)$].

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—*Ariel*, (monthly, Westwood, Mas.) has a great many preferred spellings and some amended ones, as *enuf*.

—Letters on Amended Spelling appeared in *T. P.'s Weekly* for several months. Some of them were printed in such spelling.

—**HERALD** receipts for 1906: Wishard \$15; Drummond, \$5.20; Lyon, \$5.05; Pontifex, \$4.87; Broomel, Kimbal, McKay, Wilcox, \$1 each; Boss, \$0.62; Everts, \$0.60; Phipson, \$0.56; Gardner, Tuttle, \$0.50 each; Barnard, Blackmer, Blanch, Miss Coleman, O. G. Coleman, Conquergood, Buerhle, Gasteiger, Stetson, Tillberg, Woollen, \$0.25 each; McClure, \$0.45; Carhart, \$0.35; Fuller, \$0.16. Total, \$40.61. In 1907 \$31.52 was received, making a (not very grand) total of \$291.62 in eleven years.

—Substitutes for *i*, *e*, (mere makeshifts for them) are sometimes needed for other fonts of type. Use what printers call "old style" *i*, *e*. Thus, "Giv as tu-de aur deli bred. Forgiv as aur dets az wi forgiv aur detarz. Lid as not intu temptesion, bat delivar as from ivil." To show another size of type see *Albro's words*, p. 200.

EXPLANATION: OMIT useless letters CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, and *ph* or *gh* to *f*.

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Spelling (postpaid, 10 c.) published in August as archives of the year.