

room equivalents. These 37 pages are full of them. We note *thru*, *mold*, *cucumber*, and other preferred spellings, with a general up-to-date air. As the French spell *pheasant* with *f* for *ph*, why not we?

THE OUTCOME.

RITN IN 1912.

In 1906 a bride gave a million to journals to drop *e* from *have*. It caused a great discussion. Then millions of people dropped useless letters, and the governments completed the reform. Now her little daughters find spelling easy.

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THE ELEMENT LENGTH (DURATION).

Too long have we used *long* and *short* with very different meanings. This leads to confusion. The only element in duration is time, hundredths or thousandths of a second measured by a time-piece. In a phonetic notation if nothing is said about duration it may fairly be taken as average. If more than average, say *prolonged*; if less, *brief*. *Long* or *short* are often meant to distinguish quantity or quality or both beside duration. *Length* is ambiguous: say *duration*. The Germans have an excellent and unmistakable term for it: *Lautdauer*, meaning *tone-duration*.

How should duration be marked in notation? Bell has a mark called "holder" to show increased duration, Tuttle cuts the dot off a note of exclamation (!), musicians put a dot, the macron is used consistently in NED and Wright's *Eng. Dialect Dict'y*, confusedly in *Standard Dict'y* (as over a vowel utterly weak, see *ē* in *reformation*), Passy has a special sign also confusedly employed to show quality (i in *it* and *ea* in *eat* have *i* and *i* prolonged respectively), in *walk* on page 160 we have used a double diamond (:). Any symbol may be employed that is used consistently. Signs may be changed in different phonetic notations as their authors' reasons or whims dictate.

Liberty to invent symbols belongs to a phonetic notation, but in New Spelling this is forbidden almost. Therein we are limited nearly to the printer's case. How should prolongation beyond average be indicated in New Spelling which necessarily falls so far short (in degree) of phonetic notation? Answer, by doubling. (Ellis in his extensive Palaeotype with hundreds of symbols adhered to doubling). Where doubling is not allowable, or leads to confusion by association, what? The colon (:). As prolongation is so commonly associated with elision (for which the apostrophe is the established sign), we have ventured to advise (p. 138) that the apostrophe have its functions so extended as to fill the want. The apostrophe

has evolved its uses within three centuries and may still have them extended to cover allied functions.

This matter of duration is so very much neglected among us that we have to resort to Sweden and Germany for light for our benighted understanding of our own language of which we are as justly proud as arrogant and ignorant. A lecturer in the university of Upsala has written a German treatise on it (*Englische Lautdauer*, iv + 111 pages, Upsala and Leipzig). Lloyd (*Maitre Phonet.*, 1903, p. 101) calls it "the most important contribution to our knowledge of English sound-length made for many years." Tuttle and Scripture, both of New Haven, alone in the English-speaking world, have given sound-length much attention. The rest of us prefer to work, like moles, in the dark, or if we emerge to light, shut our eyes and "go it blind." We gab away about things of whose elements we know nothing—compound ignorance: don't know that we don't know.

W FOR R.

Williams considers spellings like *very* for *very*, *weally* for *really*, point to a "guttural" *r*, as certain forms of velar *r* resemble *w*. To me, these spellings indicate a pure labial sound derived from rounded *r* by weakening of the articulation. In some American pronunciations *r* is very weak before unstressed vowels, and may become entirely silent if not rounded; thus I have heard *veɪ kæk't'rist'k* from natives of Ohio and Indiana. American *r* is however frequently rounded. . . . in my pronunciation nearly the same lip articulation as *w*. In case the point articulation of rounded *r* is relaxed, the resultant is a labial strictly resembling *w*; but differs from *w* in having no dorsal elevation, from *v* in having no strong friction. This labial *r* may be heard as an individual peculiarity in America, and would certainly be written *w* by any one trying to represent it.

In America apical vowels are formed with tongue-point raised to the *r*-position nearly; similar or identical sounds occur in England.—TUTTLE in *Neuere Sprachen*, June, 1904.

W for *r* is, as a rule, nothing more than a trick of languid dandyism in the "better vulgar," to use a happy phrase of Warburton. Occasionally it is due to weakness of muscles that push the tongue forward, and in people free from any trace of affectation.—SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, *Hygiene of Vocal Organs*, p. 163.

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