

of the vowels was changed by Isaac Pitman so that they are now

alms, ale, eel, all, old, rule,

at, ell, ill, not, nut, foot.

Certain theoretical advantages were supposed to flow from the change, but it was not adopted by Benn Pitman nor by certain others of the American Phonographers, though it has been by Munson and some others.

The practical effect of the change is very important as, though vowels are usually omitted, the word outlines are placed in the first position (above the line), or third position (through or under the line), according to the position of the leading vowel. And it is pretended by the opponents of the changed orders, that words with the *eel*, *ill*, vowel are more frequent than those with the *alms*, (*art*) *at* vowel, and that words can be written more easily in the first than in the third position; they therefore contend that the change was accompanied with a loss of speed. I write Benn Pitman myself, but have studied and can easily read Isaac Pitman; and it is my impression that the former is slightly more rapid, and the latter more legible. But I do not pretend to dogmatize about it, as I fancy the parliamentary reporters of the London Press are the fastest and most accurate reporters in the world. Benn Pitman's Manual is published in Cincinnati, U. S. A. at 75 cents or \$1, and is extremely well arranged for the student to master. Isaac Pitman, has issued a fine jubilee edition of his manual (at I believe the old price, 15 or 25 cents), containing all the latest improvements and abbreviations agreed upon.

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