

to be quite distinct from the before-mentioned Semitic or true gutturals since they are found in front of the faarynx, Sweet, (*Handbook*, § 20,) to the contrary, notwithstanding. This distinction between the two classes of gutturals appears to have been pointed out for the first time.

Presumably, this paper will be published in *Proceedings of Institute*, to which the interested reader is referred.

#### NASALIZATION.

At meeting of Fil. Section of Can. Inst., 24th Jan., Mr. G. E. Shaw, B.A., gave a statement of Portuguese nasalization, as he had heard it from a native and carefully annotated at the time. While 4 vowels are commonly considered as nasalized in Fr., he had distinguished 6 in Port, viz., 1, ao, am = a - oo; 2, em, en = eu (Fr.); 3, im, in = our e, i (Fr.); 4, om, on = on (Fr.); 5, um, un = oo (Eng.); 6, ui = oo - i (Eng.) Port. nasalization differs from Fr. in the former having greater resonance in the nasal chambers and sinuses, while the nasal twang of New Eng. was a minor affair comparatively.

Dr. Hamilton infers that nasal twang, Fr., and Port. nasalization, differs in degree merely, measured by want of elevation of soft palate, permitting resonance in nasal cavity; this explained the phenomenon physiologically. He supposed No. 1 to be open a nasalized and labialized ("rounded.") Labialization, a better term than "rounding," consisted in protrusion of lips. No. 2 was probably open e labialized and nasal; No. 3, close i; No. 4, open o; No. 5, close u; No. 6, close or open u, folded by open i. All o and u sounds are labialized normally.

— The Huntsville *Forester* reports having found the following notice on a post near Magnetawan:—

Please notice

that any one that lites down the bares shall be proucked with law  
remder i mien it.

— Why hav we olks in folks and oax in coax?

OBSCURE VOWELS.—As to the so-called obscure vowels, I used to hold that we ought to have two symbols, one to represent short e, [as in ell], the other the long "neutral vowel" [as in up]. But I much doubt now whether more than one symbol is wanted. I have always favored turned e (ø) for the purpose, as likely to prevent confusion in a reader accustomed to connect a symbol already in use (like e) with other sounds. I would ask, however, whether in words like *letter* and *able* the "neutral vowel" really exists. It seems to me that we here have sonant liquids, and that in a scientific alphabet we ought accordingly to write "lett" and "abl."—*Prof. Sayce.*

OXFORD & MARBURG.—The importance of phonetics as a university study is beginning to dawn upon the public mind. At Oxford, we find Mr. Sweet giving a course of public lectures this term on elements of phonetics. At Marburg, Prussia, Prof. Viator gives a regular course on phonetics to an audience of 50 students. Before another equally large audience he lectures on methods of teaching Eng.—*Paris Teacher.*

— Proper names being a sort of personal property can hardly be interfered with as to orthography without the owner's consent. Changes we have made should be taken as suggestive to the owners. In any journal not devoted to Amended Sp. no change should be made without the owner's consent. Those convinced of the general necessity of dropping useless letters should be ready to give their sanction to moderate suggestions and give us authority to spell their names sensibly. Changes of one or more letters in a name and dropping them as far from being uncommon if such were collected.

— We have been wasting our strength in debating and experimenting upon best shape for this or that; one set of digraphs is pitted against another, one set of diacritics against another, without any plan to arrive at an average conclusion, eliminating differences, seeking points of agreement. Where is the hero who will reduce conflicting proposals into a practicable scheme for presentation to school authorities with sufficient backing to warrant adoption? Is this warfare to go on forever—no "give and take" as to detail? This is now "the one thing needful." It is the first duty of every man to speak the truth that is in him according to his light; but the next duty in this as in every movement is to endeavor to discover points of agreement rather than emphasize points of difference.—*E. JONES in Fonographic Magazine.*

— In days of George Stephenson, perfecter of locomotive engine, scientists proved conclusively that a railway train could never be driven by steam power successfully and without peril; but rushing express trains from Liverpool to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to London, have made all nations witnesses of the splendid achievement. Machinists and navigators proved conclusively that a steamer could never cross the Atlantic; but no sooner had they successfully proved impossibility of such undertaking than the work was done, and passengers on Cunard, Inman, National and White Star lines are witnesses. They went up a guinea of wise laughter at Prof. Morse's proposition to make lightning his errand boy, and it was proved conclusively that the thing could never be done; but now all news of the wide world, by Associated Press, put in your hands every morning and night has made all nations witnesses.—*Tal-mage.*