

of B. A. by the age of 19, while ours average 23! The key to the puzzle is, the Germans learn to spell as ducks learn to swim.

A New Spelling hants *The Globe*, for

"By adding ten or twelve new letters it would be possible to spell most words phonetically, and such letters as are useless duplicates could be eliminated. The change would remove the greater part of the mental burden of learning to spell . . . progress in reading and writing would be quite as rapid as now under the fonic system, with no resultant incongruity like the 'bad' spelling seen in subsequent use of an alphabet that never can be phonetic."

Instead of "ten or twelve new letters," but two or three vowel differentials are requisite to produce a New Spelling phonetic approximately and in effect. In *The Globe's* city is a little paper heralding its feasibility and demonstrating its practicability. A generation brought up partly on this and partly on the fonic system will be quite likely to "kick against the pricks" and outrageous irregularities of Old Spelling and demand amendment. This, too, *The Globe* sees:

"The reformer will say that the fonic system, with its early mastery of reading and writing and its subsequent anarchic [?] spelling, may be a blessing in disguise. A generation that has not memorized the traditional spelling of words in common use may be more willing to recognize the need of fundamental reform."

A few objectors, who should no better, still harp on the oft-answered, stale and quite-exploited etymologic bugbear. *The Globe* puts itself right in this:

"Improving the method of expressing the language in printed characters involves not loss of the history of words, or even the history of spelling. We can preserve the history of the evolution of a Mauser rifle from the old matchlock without burdening the modern weapon with some trinket or device from each intermediate form."

PREFERED SPELLINGS.

When, in good usage, a word is spelled in more than one way, it is requisite that one be selected and adhered to. Referring to what we quoted from Murray (our p. 80), we have often to choose between what "is at present favored by preponderance of usage, and what is intrinsically best." Now what is intrinsically best is sometimes not easy to determine. Each word must be determined on its merits, involving intricacies not that of at first. Mere shortness, though a desideratum, should be allowed to decide but exceptionally, and in equivocal cases.

Such selected spellings are not at all reforming spellings. They are in good use every day somewhere. We call them Preferred Spellings, a class preliminary to Amended Spellings, and useful to the timid.

Lists of preferred spellings used in the *New York Independent* and in publications of Funk and Wagnalls Company appeared in these columns for July, 1897.

The report on Variant Spellings before the Public School section of the Ont. Ed'l

Assoc'n (referred to on our p. 78) as amended appears in the Aso'n *Proceedings*, 1901, p. 43.—a list of Preferred Spellings given as:

"RULES OF THE SCHOOL:

1. Write e for æ and œ.
2. Omit u in -our, as honor.
3. Do not double the consonant in weak syllables of verbal derivatives, as 'traveler.'
4. Spell 'center' 'fiber,' 'meter,' etc.
5. Scripture names as in Revised Version.
6. Omit apostrophe in such names as St. Marys.
7. Word-list: abetter abridgment accouter acknowledgment advertize adz agast altho aluminum analyze anemia Algonkin ambassador appealing arbor archeology ardor armor atheneum ax ay (yes) aye (ever) balk baptize barreled bark bazaar behavior belabor benefited benzin bequeathe beveled biased blithely blithesome bourn brier bromid burgeois burden by (noun) by-law by-and-by calcimine caliber caldron calipers calk candor carbid catalog center cesura centimeter chastely chasteness check (noun) checker chlorid chlorin chints cigaret civilize civilization clamor clangor cocain color connection coquet (verb) coquette (noun) cottar councilor counselor conservator creasote curtsy curtesy cyclopedia dactyl decalog decigram decliter defense dekameter demagog demeanor develop divest dialog diarrhea dieresis dike discolor disfavor disheveled disk dispatch distil diversness dolor domicil dram draft driblet driverel dueler duelist dulness embarkation enameled enamel encyclopedia endeavor enrolment envelop epaulet epilog equaled esophagus Eskimo Eskimos esthetic etiquet fagot favor feldspar fervor fetal fiber Fiji flavor flier forbad fort fulness gaiety gage gaily gamboled gang gantlet gelatin glycerin gipsy good-by governor graveled groveler gild (noun) guaranty (noun) guarantee (verb) harbor Harrisburg hemorrhage harken havoc hektogram hektoliter hektometer hight (noun) homopathy homonym honor hoveler humor hydrid hydroxid idolize immortalize intrust iodid iodin jailer jeweled jeweler jewelry judgment Kelt kilogram kilometer labeled labor lacrimal lanch leger Lewis legalize leveled libeled license licorice Linnean liter (and derivatives) lodgment luster mama Manchuria marshaled marveled marvelous materialize meager medaled medieval meter milligram milliliter millimeter miter modeled mold morphin mustache neighbor niter novelet ocher odor esophagus offense oleomargarin ombor oriflam oxid paneled paraffin paralleled paralyze parceled parlor partizan penciled periled peroxid Phenician phenix phenomenon plow polyp practise (or practice) pretense preterit program Punjab prophecy (n.) prophesy (verb) quarreled rancor raze receipt reconnoiter redout reveled reveling rime rimer rigor rivaled riveted roweled rumor saber saltpeter saviour savor scepter seamstress sepulcher sherif shoveled show shriveled simitar syrup skeptic skillful smolder smoothe sniveled sniveler somber sovran specter spelt spelled stanch stedfast stencil-er story sty sulphate sulphide sulphur sulphurate sulphuretted sulphuric sulphurous sumerset synagog tasseled teazel technique tendriled theater theolog tho thrash tinseld toveling trammeled tranquilize traveled traveler troweled tumor tunneled umber valor vaporvial victual vigor vise (a tool) vizer vizer wagon whisky wilful woolen worshiper wo woful wreathe (verb)."

When this amended report comes before the Ont. Ed'l Aso'n next April, we think it cannot do better than appoint a committee of half a dozen educators to stand for eight or ten years and make an annual report on Preferred (of variant) Spellings. In this way a valuable collection of Preferred Spellings will be had by consolidation of their several reports.