

4. *air, care, there.*

Altho some wud hav *burn* and *urn* placed in the same list as *earn*, etc., it wil not affect conclusions

Observ: the vowel is folowd in each word by *r*. May not *r* hav something to do with the preceding vowel? Such change does not always depend on *r* alone, for we frequently find vowels not affected by *r*, as in *marry*, *error*, *spirit*, *carriage*. In each of the lair, however, the *r* is immediatly folowd by a vowel in the same word. So, looking again at the list above, we ar struck by the remarkable fact that the *r* is either final in sound, or els is immediatly folowd by a consonant. In *care*, *r* represents the final sound, the *e* being silent. If yu ask for several examples of a shade vowel, it wil ofn be quite amusing to observe that the above rule holds thruout the list. For exampl, the singl vowel givn by Knudsen is illustrated by *bird*, *earth*, *berth*, *mirth*, *fur*, *fir*.

It appears, then, that when certain vowels ar folowd by *r* and another consonant immediatly in the same word, or if the *r* be final in sound, the preceding vowel either undergoes (i) an actual change, producing a shade vowel; or (ii) no change occurs. What is this change? if any. Is it one of quality? We believ observation to say not. It is one of quantity only. Accordingly, as it is no function of a letr-shape to represent quantity, but quality only, ther is no need of additional shapes.

If no change is produced, ther is no use for a distinctiv sign to mark an imaginary difference. If yu take the other case however that a change (whethr of quantity or quality or both makes no difference) the *r* final or the *r* and the other consonant wil be always there to indicate such change. In either case "AWAY WITH SHADE VOWELS!" They ar oposed to simpliciy and ar superfluous to boot.

MEAN: To receive the **HERALD** month after month in silence and then return it when a bil is renderd.

GIV YUR NAME.—We hav receivd a subscription without name or adres.—Some one (in Toronto?) has returned the paper in like manner. *Who?*

NEW MINIMUM.—On page 31 we stated the folowing Rules:

A. OMIT evry useles letr.

B. CHANGE $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} d, ph, gh \\ \text{if so sounded } \} \text{ to } t, f, f. \end{array} \right.$

In effect, they amount to very nearly the 24 Joint Rules. In some respects, they go a litl beyond them; in others, they fall a litl short. Rule B is fully justified by the 24; Rule A is very nearly so. Both of them appeal to *sound* or pronunciation as guiding fundamental principl. We *propose* that these be made a new minimum. They ar not to be *adopted* until fairly and fully illustrated and tested in modifying the present forms of words so as to giv an approved *approximation* in recording pronunciation. We hav drifted gradually from the principl of speling by sound, and we expect to get bak to it by succesiv approximations rather than by sudn revolution. In this issue we illustrate the Rules partialy. We hope our readers wil note our orthogrfy, criticise and suggest a bettr. In suggesting a bettr, changes must be founded on definit guiding principls. In other words, alterations must not depend on individual whims but general consent.

"REVISED SPELING" might be employd as an expresiv term for the orthogrfy givn by Rules A and B, as they may be considered as the outcome of the Revision of Speling now in progres, or so much of it as is generally agreed on. We hav as good a right to spel by them as we hav to uze the Revised Translation of the *bibi* insted of that of 1611. No one shud be compeld to uze the arbitrary orthogrfy of this or any past century insted of one that is approximatly rational and regular.

FURTHER STEPS.—At page 22, we gave the succesiv steps by which so low a minimum as the Five Rules was reacht. The next step wud appear to be the adoption of the Ten Rules, as givn p. 28. After that wud come the Joint Rules or their equivalent, Rules A and B. The lair ar in much simpler form than the Joint Rules, and appealing as both A and B do to the principl of *sound*, ar capabl of redy use without resort to *memory*, but uzing the *car* as a guide, aided by *reason*.