

## ENGLISH SP. REF. ASSOC'N.

From the *Fonetic Journal's* account of the annual meeting in London we extract the following:—

Mr J. B. RUNDSELL then moved the re-election of officers. He said that the present age had been described as one in which the novel had replaced the sermon. It was encouraging therefore to find the question of spelling reform mentioned in the novels of the day. In that popular work, "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," there were three separate attacks on spelling in its present condition. If it were brought home to the teachers who had now so laboriously to impress upon the minds of the young the spelling of our language that that spelling was condemned by the leading etymologists of the day, who were all in favor of fonetic spelling, he thought they would be weaned from their present opinions; and then through them might be reached the *Inspectors*, who were the greatest opponents of anything in the way of change of spelling.

Mr PAGLIARDINI seconded the motion, and remarked that Lord Tennyson had consented to become one of the vice-presidents of the Association because he wished that the pronunciation which brought out the effects designed in his poetry should be faithfully recorded for the use of future times.

The motion being agreed to Mr Henry Sweet, M. A., was called upon to deliver his lecture on "Spelling Reform in its relation to the Practical Studies of Language."

Mr SWEET began by quoting Prof. Seeley's remark that the study of History, while it should be scientific in its method, should pursue a practical object. Mr Sweet would extend the application of this remark to the science of philology. Hitherto, this science, Mr Sweet said, had not exerted any favorable influence on the practical study of language, but rather the reverse, as shown by the former hostile attitude of philologists and classical scholars to spelling reform. The remedy for this lay in the recognition of a science of *Living Philology*, based on the thorough study of living languages by means of phonetics and psychology. Two common but erroneous

notions were, that an accurate pronunciation could be acquired by mere imitation, without the help of fonetic analysis, and that minute distinctions could be safely disregarded in understanding or speaking a living language. Even a purely literary study of a language should be based on its colloquial form, for this alone was simple, regular and definitely limited in the range of its forms and vocabulary. No language could be really mastered except through a fonetic notation, [not excepting our own]

NEWS.—We are always glad to receive items of news. If papers are sent, paragraphs should be marked.

POSTAGE.—The postage (Canadian) on a single copy of any *periodical* weighing less than an ounce is half a cent. — One-half cent stamps are for sale. This applies to the *HERALD*.

Every public reading room in the country should be supplied with more or less of the literature of Simplified Spelling. Sum one in every city and town should attend to this. Mechanics' Institutes, Y. M. C. Associations, colleges and other places have reading rooms. To accustom the public to the sight of new spellings is even more needed than abstract arguments. The educated already know most of them. The ignorant will not understand. Such printed literature should be properly placed and regularly put up.

The *Chatham Planet* says we "do not go by any classification of sounds given by the authorities." As this is so indefinite and lacks example and explicitness, we are at a loss. We have diligently compared the best authorities both with one another and with the ACTUAL, the sounds themselves and their mode of production by the vocal organs; in other words, scientific phonology and the physiology of speech. Authorities on anatomy differ; careful dissection is the final appeal. Dissect sounds, Mr. P., compare authorities, and give us a better.

The *FONETIC HERALD* is published monthly (except July and Aug.) It is devoted to PRONUNCIATION, and to explaining and exemplifying the *simplicity* and *practicability* of amending our ORTHOGRAPHY, so as to spell by sound instead of by memory. 25 cents a year.