

cat leng vowels is a contrivans uzd by Mr Alex. M. Bell and by a number ov S. Reformers; it givs simplisiti tu dhe sistem, and hwen uzd acednj tu dhe givn ru'l, it wil net ce z so stran; a luk tu dhe words az wud ny letters.

Dhe sistem has az moch probabiliti ov intrudochon az eni dhat has bin propozd and is wel su'ted fer its intended propos. *S. Norwalk, Conn., Sept., '86. C.W. Knudsen.*

IV.—TEACHING LANGUAGES.

SIR.—Yu no I was sent hither by the French government to report on the proceedings of the third northern Filological Congres. Besides the acquisition of *spoken* Swedish, it appeared oportune to help on the mooted International Phonetic Assoc'n. After conference with our friends Western (Frederikstad, Norway), Lundell (Ups-la), and Jesspersen (Copenhagen), it was decided to introduce the matr in the pedagogic section where a Mr Drake was to lecture on the practical study of language. Accordingly, after the lecture (on 12th Aux.), I was askt that disoussion be put off to the next morning; and then Prof. Lundell open- fire by setting down 4 propositions whic' fairly represent the position of the yung fonetic school:

1. A language shud be studid at first not in its rita form, but in its living and spoken form; therefore, texts shud be used in which the language is rita as it is sp-ken. [This general stateme't of soures includes the particular case exhorting children to read their own tung—especially a libabl to English wherein the spoken and rita (old speling) forms so very badly correspond.]

2. Translations shud be suprest, or, at least, reduct to a minimum, being replast by explanations in which the language is made to explain itself and by more ours ry reading.

3. Connected texts, not disconnected sentences, shud be used in teaching.

4. Grammar shud be t-ut from the texts, not as a didactic whole; a more systematic study to be made later on, or in revision.

Lively disoussion ensued, in which Professors Storm, Lundell, Noreen, with Messrs Western, Jesspersen, Sturzenbecker, Palmgren and myself joined. It occupied three ours. With no decision on the second point, the three others war carid by large majority. Forthwith, notice was stuk up in the lobby of the Congres hous, inviting all friends of reform to join in forming the Scandinavian Assoc'n for reform of language-teaching. A goodly number ar already on list. The Society wil soon meet to fix its constitution. Its promoters intend to join hands with our Paris Fonetic T. Assoc'n. *Stockholm, Sweden, Aug., '86. P. Passy.*

PHONETICS may be defined as the science of speech-sounds.

READING.—In the bienial report of schools for this county, the inspector, Mr W. E. Tilly, M. A., says that in reading

Before leaving a lesson, the words shud be instantly recognized when pointed out, and redily re- lvd into their elementary sounds.

Correct! Ability to giv the elementary sounds is the only test of acurat pronunciation. He who cannot giv them mumbles and mouths his words. What the sounds ar shud be definitely specified, instild and practist from the first—best effected by a *sound* system. Reference to dictionary is troublesome, ofn puzzling and unsatisfactory, while the tutor cannot eternally hamar it in.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The Shorthand Writer is a neat monthly publisht at Downer's Grove, a suburb of Chicago Ill. It is devoted to spreading Taehygraphy, a fonetic system of shorthand—\$2 a year. Its interest for us is chiefly in the Revised Speling which it employs. That is thruout about the same as in our colums altho it says very littl about it—believing exampl betr than precept. We mention its orthograpy only to comend in general We dout advisability of leaving *y* out of *might, right, etc.* In *mihl, rihl, etc.*, we introduce an expedient which is new to our language altho comon in German. We refer to the use of *h* as denoting that preceding vowel is modified. In *zehr, h* indicates to a German that *e* is to hav a sound. We cannot recall a solitary instance in which we make use of *h* to modify *z* or any vowel so that it is an altogether new expedient. It is easier to introduce a new letr. The latr is more efectiv and is finel comparativly while a new expedient implies farther change—itsel an evil. We must hold to the 6th of the principls givn from *Home Journal* on p. 36—tantamount to *No new expedients.*

The Guide to Shorthand Systems, publisht bimonthly by D. P. Lindsly at 817 N. 45th St., Philadelphia, Penn., employs *f* for *ph* thruout except at begining of proper names of persons and places. This is wel as to do otherwise wud thro names out of alfabetic order in indexes, directoris, etc. An *f* is permisibl in latr part of Philadelphia, but not at begining. This change of *f* to *ph* in general is comendabl for all to start with. Price of *Guide*, 50 c. a year.

Notes and Queries is publisht monthly at \$1 a year by Gould and Bro., Manchester, N. H. It is devoted to ansrs to all sorts of questions on all imaginabl matrs. It is exceedingly interesting and most instructiv. Articles or notes in Revised Sp. ar inserted occasionally in its pages.

—*Accent*, or stres of voice, in most European languages, is not thrown so exclusively on a singl syllabl as in English: consequently unaccented syllabls ar pronounst more distinctly than by us. This is especially tru of French, Italian and Spanish. As we put so much stres on one syllabl, it foloes that other syllabls in the word ar substrest and so hav the qualitis of their vowels made more or les indistinct or "obscure." With us then ther is more difficulty as to unaccented syllabls than in most other languages.