

RIVAL MEDICAL DICTIONARIS.—Readers of our July number will remember a forcible plea by Dr Gould and his reference to sordid interests of publishers. This or other reason has spurd Messrs Lippincot, Philadelfia, to announce a new edition of their Thomas' Medical Dictionary to be calld Lippincot's. Gould's notation of orthoepy is not the best: so, Lippincot says:

"The system of indicating pronunciation . . . is new and original. . . . It renders possible accurate representation of sounds to a degree that no other system has as yet attained, and almost entirely without confusion of diacritical marks." Their way is to mark secondary and weak vowels by italic letters. Their orthoepy is acceptable, tho we wud rather see *acidulous* with "yu," not "iu," in third syllable. In *abducens*, etc., "iu" is preferable, because in mid-syllable. *-tion* is "shon." Further, "In spelling, wise conservatism has toned down the radical tendency of the times [Oh! no.] into a moderate course, suited to a decent and literary use of the language, good usage and thoughtful consideration rather than hasty enthusiasm being the guides."

which but means that Gould's hot shot is not without effect! Keep it up!

CORRESPONDENCE.

QUOTATIONS—PRETERITS IN CARLYLE—FREDRIC.

SIR,—In your April number you quote Tennyson's lines

"That man 's the true conservative
Who lops the withered branch away."

without dropping a useless e at the end of *conservative* or the second e from *withered*. You treat a quotation from Campbell in like manner. Why?

While it is true that our poets have all along used preterits in t of the types *sipt*, *drest*, they have never disappeared wholly from our prose, as witness *stormtost*, *frostnript* in Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus* (Book II, chapter 2); as also *rapt* in Book II, chapter 6. There are quite a number of noteworthy spellings in his *Frederick*. Why do we spell *Frederick* as three syllables and with unnecessary c or k, when German *Friedreich* has but two syllables and no k? Did not we get the name from German on accession of the House of Hanover? The son of George II, the Prince of Wales who predeceased his father, was so named. Have we earlier examples in our literature?

Toronto.

A. E. H.

[In quotations from classics it seems better to give the author's word-forms, or, if not his, then his printer's (for that is what it amounts to commonly) or those of his time. So, in quotations from Chaucer, Spenser, Shakspeare, Milton, Pope, Goldsmith, Tennyson, *et al.*, we try to give originals.—ED.]

DIFTHONGS—ILLIBERALITY.

SIR,—As signs for diphthongs I prefer *iu*, *ai*, *au*, *oi*. There has been much fussing about *ai*. We may as well settle down to *ai*, which shows that it is a diphthong.

Tho a Liberal and Reform government reigns at Ottawa, it seems that it is illiberal to spelling reform. You may well envy your fellow-journalists their privilege of mailing sample copies at the usual rates. I don't see why it can justly be denied THE HERALD—not an advertising dodge, but discussing for the public weal neglected questions of great import. Long live THE HERALD! Every friend of progress should give it generous and enthusiastic support. Its size and frequency of appearance are matters of secondary consequence; of prime importance are that it should, first, give the right key-note; second, be kept going.

Ashtabula, O.

L. LYON.

PAPERS PRACTISING AMENDMENT.

SIR,—I am glad to find *The Voice*, which I get weekly from New York, continuing to use some Amended Spelling. It would be well to publish a list of papers which regularly print reformed spelling of some sort. It might be no harm too to urge friends of spelling reform to patronize such papers in preference to others devoted to similar objects but using old spelling. I hope that you will live long and be adequately supported in your efforts to disseminate better spelling.

Toronto.

WM. H. ORR.

[The list will be suitable for our cover.—ED.]

NEWS NOTES.

—Mr H. Drummond, Hetton-le-Hole, Eng., is the new secretary of the "Spelling League." Prof. Max Mueller retains the presidency.

—"The Annual of New Spelling" for 1898 will be ready in November. It will consist of the four issues of THE HERALD for 1897 with suitable cover, sent postpaid for 10 cents. The cover will contain a Platform. Anyone "having ideas" of the thoughtful, well-digested, sterling kind is invited to contribute sound "planks." The day for loosely reasoned "glittering generalities" has past: we should get to work earnestly.

—A new dictionary was projected by the Philologic Societies and material therefor begun to be collected forty years ago. After a world of trouble and delay the Clarendon Press, Oxford, undertook the gigantic task and pecuniary risk of publication. The first part, half the words beginning with A, appeared in 1884 with title: A New English Dictionary on Historic Principles. By this is meant that it shall give, amid much else, word-forms as they changed in past centuries, each proved and exemplified by apt quotations from originals. Succeeding parts have completed words in A, B, C and E. Those in D and F are nearly so—likely to be finished this year, and G started. A, B, C, D are in charge of Dr Murray as editor-in-chief; E, F, G are under Mr Henry Bradley. The first volume, comprising A and B, costs about \$13; the second, C only, the same. Tho yet unfinished, it is of great service for words beyond F, for many of which what we wish to do at the time may be inferred by Analogy from a word in earlier parts.