KEY: a a a e e i î e o o u u u az in art at alo ell cel it I or ox no up put do

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THE LONDON "O."

The cosmopolitan vowel sound herd in our word no, as pronounst in America and in most parts of the British Isles, is pronounst as a difthong in London and some other adjacent districts in Suthern England. They pronounce it very nearly the same as we do the word now. Ther is this difference, however: In now, the two parts of ow hav about equal stres and quantity; in the London o the two parts hav diferent quantity, the first having stres and a quantity greater than the second. The London o is a trochee, or trochaic difthong. Punch, the great comic jurnal, has recently used its powerful voice to help chek this departure from the more general pronunciation. In its issue for 18th Dec. last is to be found a large cut of an Italian singer (Signor Mossic) singingas if in public, with piano acompaniment. He has lernd to pronounce o in London fashn, that is, as if it wer ow. Punch givs: "

. Signor Mossini,—(Singing):
"Ow, my Love! I loved her sow!
My Love that loved me years agow!"

It may be askt, how does the Londoner distinguish no and now. Anser: He pronounces now as tho it wer nau, where 'a' sounds as in at and 'u' as in put, that is ow is changed into another difthong, which is again a trochaic difthong, or one having stres on its first part. The New Englander, or "Yankee" has a like mispronunciation. His word cow is comonly givn as the exemplary word. It difers from the London difthong in two respects: 1st, the two parts have equal stres; 2d, they are givn the nasal twang, similar tu but much les than French nasalization. The tru English ow is neither the London nor the Yankee form.

When o ocurs before r, the Londoner first changes o to the sound aw, and then drops the r. Ful exampl of coloquial Londonese can be found in Sweet's Elementarbuch des Gesprochenen English, which givs, not distinct English, such as shud be and is used in reading the Services of the Episcopalian Church, but the London dialect as givn coloquialy without faults comonly calld Cokny.

— Those interested in French wil find a good acount of "The French language in Louisiana and the Negro-French Dialect," in a paper by Prof. Fortier in Proceedings of Mod. Lang. Assoc'n of America for 1885.

LITERATURE.

ENGLISH LINE-WRITING: A new, simpl, and exact system of Fonetics. By A. Melvil Bell. Publisht by E. S. Werner, 48 University Place, N.Y., pp. 52, 12mo., paper; price, 60 cents.

Any work by Mr. A. M. Bell, the author of Visibl Speech shud comand atention. Until recently he was a resident of Tutelo Heights, near brantford, Ont., and is the father of Mr. A. Graham Bell, of telefon fame. He now resides in Washington, and this is his most recent work. All his work is put on the basis of observed vocal fysiology—a correct one. He does not make any atempt to folo Roman letrs, but takes strokes like those in shorthand for the consonants, and indicates vowels by dashes light or hevy. The lines ar not arbitrary parts of the strait line and circl as ar those of shorthand, but ar indicativ where and how the sound is formd. He says:

"The line caracters wil be found to hav important advantages over ordinary letrs—however specialized the latr may be by discritic signs, etc.—not only in simplicity of form and freedom from ambiguity, but in the visibl relations of the elements which constitute line-writing a perfect picture of utorance."

Posibly a holly new alfabet may be the betr way to study speech-sounds and their relations as they ar dissociated from old orthografic relations: yet we believ that for all popular and educational purposes at least the Roman letrs must be taken. For these purposes we agree with him, that great acuracy of representation is not requisit, however desirabl it is for sientific study: He says, p. 4:

"We understand speakers from diferent sections of our cuntry, notwithstaninds numerus unlikeness in pronunciation, and we interpret the broken English of a forener, altho he uses very diferent elementary sounds from our own; so, too, we hear varius shades of ah-sound, awsound, o-sound, and oo-sound interchanged, in dialects, and among individuals, without afecting intelligibility: Therefore an initiatory alfabet may omit many nicer elementary distinctions."

He discriminates nineteen distinctions of vowel sound, exclusiv of difthongs. Several of these 19 necesarily mark quantitativ diferences only. Omiting such, the number is redust to about twelv. It is betr to indicate quality by the shape of a vowel. Quantity is such a variabl, depending on emotion. emfasis, accent, surounding letrs, condition of the speaker's throat and helth that we can but giv an aproximat to it. This is suficiently denoted by the accent mark. The atempt is made by Bell to giv the quantity of vowels in all unaccented sylabls. This trying to indicate both quantity and quality by shape makes matrs very complex. The word indivisibility has sevn sylabls; the vowel in each has the same quality, but probably no two hav the same quantity. If we no where the accent is, we hav the best guide to the