

CORRESPONDENCE ON NEW SPELING.

[By request, copy is folod. For key see p. 56.]

SUR: (li onli intended tu sho, en p. 60, hwai B-II speling en p. 56 difurz, and dhat B-speling iz cōrrect. H-speling haz merit az niu speling tu brēc daun cūrent speling and pēv dhi wē fər fonetic sp., i.e.,

"Speling that adheres strictly to pronucia'ān and rejects the so-cald historical or etymologic method."—Standard dictionary.

"Speling in fonetic caracters, each representing one sound only."—Webster's Int'l dict'y.

"Speling according to sound, the speling of words as they ar pronounced."—Century dict'y.

B-speling iz fonetic [!!!?] Dh reprizents its on saund onli. Plangc 19 and yur cōmments en p. 60 sustēn Band mci critisizm ev H. Əv cors DHI HERALD shud bi uptudēt, and wil bi if H iz. Jēin "dhi Chicēgo foc" and get "in dhi swim." Yur "heagl heye" wil enēbl yu tu si dhi merit ev fonetic speling. Yu wil laic it and wi wud gladli welcum yu tu our rangcs. Sē tu "Proa": Fonetic speling duz net purmit bigami; e can reprizent but wun cweliti ev saund. i and i reprizent brif and ful saundz ev dhi sēm eliment. Hwen i iz mēd fər a fent it iz mor lejibl dhan iz i er e ev dhi sēm fent.

Qi wez bern in and livd in N. Y. Stēt 30 yīrz but nevur hurd er in *her, jerk, verb*, pronqunst az silabic r (r in *air, ore, roar*). In *merit, merry, ferry*, etc., er haz its *regyular* saund, viz., e ev *met* fēlod bai dhi saund ev r az indicēted bai unmarct er in rī-speling in Stand. dic. Si *perish, merit*, and fər marct er (ur) si *permit, mercer*. In fonetic speling dhar ar no supprest vauel saundz. Si plangc 19. Speling in hwich saundz ar supprest iz stenografic speling. Agrī on leturz fər an alfabet; dhen, en pronunsiēshun. Fonetic speling duz net reflect etimoloji, tru er fēls, haz absolutli nuthing tu du widh it.

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SIR: Lowel condems (in *Biglow Papers*) orthoepy indicated by "venchur, nēchur" in DEVELOPMENT (B) on p. 56:

"The Yankee always shortens u in -ture making ventur, natur, pictur and so on . . . comon among the educated of the last generation. I am inclined to think it may have been once universal, and I certnly think it more elegant than the vile vencher, naycher, pickcher, that hav taken its place, sounding like the invention of a lexicografer with his mouth ful of hot pudding."—Introduction to Second Series.

Yur distinction between ful and weak vowels is wel exemplified by Lowel:

"Emfasis modifies [ofn alters] habitual sound. E. g., for [in New England] is comonly fer [fər] (a shorter sound than fur [fər, orthografic fur] for far), but when emfatic it always becomes for, as 'wut for!' [wət for, what for!]"—Ibid.

Yu need not go so far as north Britan (which yu do on p. 60) to find exampls of e folod immediatly by r in the same syllab

and pronounced as "formal" e in *merry*:

"The New England ferce for fierce, and perce for pierce (sometimes herd as fairce and pairce), ar also Norman. For its antiquity I cite the rime of verse and pierce in Chapman and Donne and in some comandatory verses by a Mr Berkenhead before the poems of Francis Beaumont. Our pairious for perilous is of the same kind and is nearer Shakspear's parlious."—Ibid.

Considering fers and pars for *fierce* and *perce*, it is plain that the Green Ile, tho a preserv of old orthoepy, must share that with New England. The colēges teach that in Chaucer er shud be givn as er, not er. Thus, in first lines of *Prolog. to C.T.*:
Whan that Aprille with his shoures s(wo)ote
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote
we ar taut that *perced* is (not pərs'əd, nor pərs'əd, nor pəsd, but) pərsəd. Milton has

Married to immortal verse,

Such as the meeting soul may pierce,
in *L'Allegro*, 137-8, and the same rime in *To a Solemn Music*. Spenser has *persant*. Shakspear plays on *perce* and *person* in *Love's L. Lost*, iv, 2, 86, and on *perce* and *Percy* in *1 Hen. IV*, v, 3, 59, and rimes it with *reheurse* in *Rich. II*, v, 3, 127, and in *G. of Wyo.*, part III, st. iv, Campbell rimes it with *universe*. To hav such a speling as "rivurs" on p. 56 is at once to ignore its derivation unnecessarily and to fly in the face of the language's literary history at least from the Norman period to now.

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SIR: As to the *Standard's* rule for dubl consonants (p. 56), its exampl (*accord*) in which a is calld "a distinct short" is givn over 1100 times in this same dictionary with a markt obscure. Its "rule" looks suspiciously like an attempt to preserv old Latin speling. First consonants in *accord, attempt, appear*, etc., ar no more dubl in sound than those in *among, above, along*. *The Century* is more uptodate here: it rites a-kōrd, a-tēpt, a-pēr, with a colloquial ə.

On p. 60 yu remark the I.F.A.'s distinction of a and ə. For Londōnese this is tru; a is similar to a of *father, hurd, calm*. In U.S. accented vowel in *fungus, other, under* is not apreciable difrent from the unaccented ones, all being ə. The same is tru of England's northern shires according to Lloyd who uses a difrently from I.F.A.

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[fəŋgəs, əðər, əndər, (= fəŋgəs, əðər, əndər.) is HERALD-notation. ə is a ful vowel; ə is squeezezd, lo-strest ə, vocal breth thru a mouth scarcely more open than for continuants, not = ə. Voiced continuants (z, ð, j, y, v, l, m, n, ŋ, r, ʒ, q) hav partial obstruction; complete stopage in b, d, g; complete oral stopage in m, n, ŋ, with vent by nose. Distinguishing ful vowels from weak, squeezezd, muft, mumbld ones is a useful, necessary merit in our speech-notation. The alternativ plan (as in əndər.) is uzed in absence of superior letters, and when more convenient.—EDWIER.]