

tion, others again, in addition to their technical plural (Lat. or Gr.) have assumed a popular plural (Eng.)

Pronoun. The pers. pronoun retains a distinct form for sing. and plu., and a distinct inflection for each person. "You" and "yours" are, however, the ordinary pronouns of address, whether we are speaking of one or more than one. "We" has idiomatic uses in the singular, and "it" for all nos. and persons. One defect in the person of our pronoun is the want of a pro. 3rd sing., com. gen. In this respect the Fr. "on" and the Ger. "man" supply a deficiency very much felt in English.

ADJECTIVE.

With the exception of "this" and "that," which have plural forms, adjectives are uninflected in modern English.

III. The imperfections of the Eng. alphabet belong in part to the peculiarity of the sounds it has to express in part to its history. The letters of the alphabet are too few to represent the variety of sounds in the language, and what they might do is not done because of the restraining influence of traditional association.

1. Double vowels are used to represent single sounds: coal. Double consonants to shorten preceding vowels, "hill," as an example. Double consonants represent sounds distinct from the sound of either of them: ch, ng, th.

2. Many single letters have two or more sounds, in certain combinations it is necessary to modify the spelling to preserve the sound, in "rog," "o" is long, first indicated by adding e = roge, this changes the sound of "g," and the effect is neutralized by the insertion of "u," = rogue.

3. City, for example, might be spelled sity (as far as sound is concerned,) but, being derived from the Latin and there spelt with a "c," we retain the "c" to recall its origin.

4. We have pairs of words, either

from the same root in which the dif. of spelling was at first accidental: draft and draught, or from different roots, as son and sun.

The meaning in each pair is now different, it is necessary to mark the difference by the spelling.

Cup-board.—1st "pb" form an unpronounceable combination of sharp and flat mutes; 2nd, an unaccented long syllable is apt to be slurred over in pronunciation. We say kub-bord.

Swept.—Verbs in a, p, r, s, never make their p. tenses in "d" simply, but, either if strong verbs, by changing the vowels, or if weak by adding ed or d, and pronouncing it, if not a separate syllable, as t, hence the tendency to write the past tense with t.

Number—from L. numerus, a number. Unstable combinations of liquids and consonants often borrow a strengthening sound from the class to which either liquid or consonant belongs: num-b-er.

Sound, from A.S. son, a sound. When short vowels stand alone there is a tendency to lengthen them, in this case by adding a second vowel = soun, then "d" was added as a strengthening letter to "n."

IV. Articles, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, auxiliary verbs, are generally of Saxon origin.

V. Strong preterite.—This appears to have been originally formed by reduplication. This formation was gradually weakened in speaking rapidly 1st, by omitting the final consonant from the first member of the doubled root; 2nd, by weakening the vowel sound of the initial syllable to one uniform letter; 3rd, by omitting the initial consonant of the second member of the doubled root, so that the vowel of reduplication and the vowel of the root came in contact with each other and were commonly blended into one sound.

Weak preterite.—This preterite tense was originally formed by annexing to