

—The text from which we preach on p. 97, the keynote of vol. ii, needs repetition. It was: "These difficulties can be grappled with only by scientific methods, if hoping for satisfactory results. . . . Accurate knowledge of orthoepic facts would help to seal spelling."—SWEET.

—Alfred Ayres, a language purist, author of the *Orthoepist*, *Verbalist*, etc., died of paralysis in New York on 26th October. His real name was Dr Thomas Embley Osmon.

—This invites *you* to subscribe.

—Major John Wesley Powell, PH. D., LL. D., died 23d Sept. For many years he was director of the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington, and formerly director of the U. S. Geologic Survey. His book (*Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages*) has been noticed in our pages (vol. i, p. 78) with its excellent speech-notation, worthy of note as marking secondary vowels by a brev, leaving unmarked ones to be considered as long. Powell worked with true scientific spirit along lines parallel to ours, aiding our cause indirectly.

—A book on Portuguese Orthography, its anomalies and how to remedy them, has appeared at Lisbon. It has 204 pages 8vo, and is by the fonetician, A. R. G. Vianna. When Spanish spelling was reformed it is a great pity that its sister tongue did not follow suit then instead of now, a hundred years after.

—Germany, France, even Spain, manage revised orthography better than we. Discusst in Germany for fifty years, now by agreement between Germany, Austria and Switzerland, new and uniform spelling is to be introduced in April in all schools and official publications, as already accepted by many publishers and journals. Superfluous letters will be omitted, a great desideratum, and other minor improvements made in capitalizations, etc.—The Schoolmaster.

—"Simplified Spelling" is a missionary tract of six small pages of matter suitable for general insertion in letters. It says truly that "multitud ar redi and anachus for simpl spelling, tho thama not be redi for ful fonetics." Get 50 copies for 10 c. from Dr T. B. Welch, 5919 Woodbine av., W. Philadelphia, Pa. "A Child's Ezzi Reader" will follow. Both will awake popular interest. The word-forms are not put forth as final, but provisional. So, Welch accords better with co-workers.

—"What is Standard Pronunciation?" This is now subject of controversy by Mr Phipson and Mons. Passy. The former appears to have instanced the dict's, as Murray's and its French equal, Littré's; to which Passy retorts (in *Maitre Phonétique*, Nov.): "Did Murray and Littré get standard pron. by revelation? or by observing their own and others' speech. If the latter, why shouldn't we do the same?" Up to 1888 Passy used twelve-vowel standard English. Then he was hypnotized into colloquialism, fell into a Sweet sleep like Homer's lotus-eaters, hard to waken. To us colloquialism seems a Slough of Despond to flounder in, not a lotus-bed.

—Readers need reminding of this fact: THE ANNUAL OF NEW SPELLING, a covered pamphlet, is a year's HERALD—postpaid for 10 cents. Judiciously distribute all your HERALDS as they are received; then file THE ANNUAL yearly. It is now sent with edges untrined because better so to be bound into volumes and trined evenly after.

—The Amended Spelling in these pages is got by following these two very simple principles: OMIT useless letters; CHANGE (if sounded so) d to t, ph or gh to f; let -er denote agent-nouns.

—An obituary notice of Dr Angus with expressions of his views on orthographic amendment are put forth by Mr Drummond in the *Journal of Orthoepy and Orthography* for November.

In the same number both Mr D. and Mr E. Jones of Liverpool do the same for Dr Gladstone.

—Mr Benn Pitman has resided at Cincinnati, Ohio, since 1852. He is a brother of the late Sir Isaac. He offers three prizes among pupils of Cincinnati schools for best orthoepy rith in a twelve-vowel scale.

INCONSISTENCY, THY NAME IS SPELLING

(By E. L. Sabine in *The Bangalore Magazine*.)

When the English tongue we speak,

Why is *break* not rimed with *freak*?

Will you tell me why it's true

We say *see*, but likewise *few*;

And the maker of a verse

Cannot cap his *horse* with *worse*?

Beard sounds not the same as *heard*;

Cord is different from *word*;

Cow is *cau*, but *low* is *le*;

Shoe is never rimed with *foe*.

Think of *hose* and *dose* and *lose*;

And of *goose*—and yet of *choose*.

Think of *comb* and *tomb* and *bomb*;

Doil and *roll*; and *home* and *some*.

And since *pay* is rimed with *say*,

Why not *paid* with *said*, I pray?

We have *blood* and *food* and *good*;

Mould is not pronounced like *could*.

Wherefore *done*, but *gone* and *lone*?

Is there any reason known?

And, in short, it seems to me

Sound and letters disagree.

LITERATURE

THE PRACTICE OF TYPOGRAPHY: Correct Composition, by Theodore L. De Vinne, A. M. The Century Co., N. York; x+476 p. 12mo, cloth.

Each teacher and printer has life-long struggles—one as to what should be taught, the other as to what should be practised—in spelling or received word-forms, including all signs in the printer's type-case. De Vinne (of the De Vinne Press New York, celebrated for excellent work) herein gives reason and rule for use of all printers' signs, including spelling (half the book), and excellent reasons, rules and examples they are. Lists of words ending in *ence* and *ance* are given—two quite too troublesome classes; at the end are found 1600 preferred spellings in parallel columns with four American and three British authorities for most of them. The work is a practical treatise on word-forms.

READY REFERENCE HELPS by D. Kimball, 113 Adams st., Chicago; 208 pages 3 x 5½ inches.

For 25 cents you have a glossary of army, chemical, commercial, farmaceutic, legal, mechanical, nautical, naval, transportation and other technical terms and abbreviations with brief definitions and explanations, translations of frequently used foreign words and phrases, tables of weights and measures (common and metric, with equivalents), sizes of paper and envelopes, tables of money, foreign coins, plan of land surveys with base lines and principal meridians, abbreviations in telegraphy, and much else needed often by literary or business people, and daily by office workers. In