

CORRESPONDENCE

[The first three parts of criticism and reply before refer to thegraphy of Knudsen's Dictionary of which we have mentioned on page 69.]

I.—"A SIGN FOR EACH SOUND"

Sir.—Some of the work is what I and all other the ongoing sp. reformers must regard as egregiously mistakes of judgment as well as of theory. I mention particularly the use of digraphs for simple sounds, as th, o' ng, sh, i', u', etc. They are not philosophically foretold—"a sign for a sound"—and cannot be expected to be permanent, both because of their unsentient character and of the unnecessary labor they impose upon the writer. The system can never be accepted and practised in writing because of the great increase of marks, apostrophes, etc. It is folly to waste time on mere temporary substitutes for what must eventually be adopted. *Los Angeles, Cal., Aug., '86.* ELIAS LONGLEY.

II.—"NO NEW LETTERS"

Sir.—The important question that divides Sp. Reformers is this: *Are any new letters necessary?* The majority in England answer: "Not at all, yes, practically, no." Some time ago the Eng. S. R. A. invited specimens of reforming spelling from all quarters. About 100 specimens were received in response. Of these, about 27 only could be printed with available types; of these 27, only three or four adopted any new letters. Members were invited to mark such of these 27 specimens as seemed worthy of further consideration. The result was that well-known Pitman's new letter scheme had majority of votes, the aggregate number of votes given for aul the present letter scheme was three or four times the number for aul new letter scheme. The scheme without new letters differed little from that which could easily be amalgamated.

Let me urge mutual toleration. We cannot pass a rigid Act of Uniformity. No man has any right to claim to be an infallible keeper in this business and to say it must be done in this way and no other. I would like to see something of this sort: Set out aul the letters on which everybody or nearly everybody is agreed: I think there would be very little difference as to 30 out of 40 sounds.—Then admit two or more symbols for remaining sounds. At this stage, let us not commit ourselves forever for or against this or that symbol, but let there be liberty for aul. Let the fittest survive. *Liverpool, Eng., Aug., '86.* EDW. JONES.

[If agreement on 30 symbols be so readily possible, our three correspondents J., K., and L., are not so far apart. With 30 signs our sp. would be more regular than that of any other living tongue. . . . For key to Mr Jones' sp. see p. 62; for that of Mr K. below see p. 63.—Mr K. now prefers the turned period (·) instead of apostrophe as a distinguisher: a · a · e · i · i · e · o · o · u · u · art at ale ell eel ill l · or · no · us put do The scheme has merit. It is the product of profound thought and earnest work. It deserves greater consideration than it has yet received. It has the following merits in our opinion: (1) a is used in accord with cosmopolitan use, viz., for vowels in *at* and *art*; for a, *besi* as its general sound as in *art*, has a secondary use as in *er* in English, French and Danish, as also exceptionally (to our ears) in Italian (examp. *felicità*). (2) in like manner, u is in accord with cosmopolitan usage. (3) a separate letter for vowel in *ale*. Altho other things may use e for both *ell* and *ale*, we cannot do so. We must (4) have an e shape like K's or that of Eng. S. R. A., or else an e-shape like that so far employed by us. (5) a separate sign for v. in *isk*. Whether it

be \int , δ or \bar{i} appears not essential but matter of detail or taste in which the fittest should survive—so with \mathbb{U} , \mathbb{U} , \mathbb{U} , or \mathbb{U} . (6) This \mathbb{U} is used for 'yu' or 'yu'—with doubtful propriety in beginning words. Weak points: (1) vowel in *est* needs its own sign as *English*.—fully with v. in *alc*.

why they receive different treatment possible. (ii) We question v. in *up* deserving to pair with v. in *no*. The inventor of Phonography *allows* it from motives of expediency. Mueller instructs (*Science of Lang.*, vol. II, p. 132.) that when stress is removed on a vowel, the vowel tends to become v. in *up*. Thor being every degree of openness in them helps to their enforst union. They shud be d'vorst. (ii) Vowels in *oz* does not pair with *ort*—second heirloom of Phon.—but with *ort*. Herein of course we refer to *vowel*, not to *spelling* in other tongues. (iv) The first vowel in *purpose* getting its own sign seems superfluous—if not, turned e (e) will do.—[Editor.]

III.—A MIDL COURSE: AVOID EXTREMES.

DR R SIR,—Alou mi tu anser both bj stating hwj dhe sistem ov i-dher ov dhi z earnest Sp. Reformers, Jones and Longley, cud not bi fully adopted in dhe "Pronouncing and Spelling Dictionary."

TU' LITL OR TU' MOCH IS AN I'VEL.

Tu avoid dhis recwirs an amount ov nolej and wizzard hwich fu men, if eni, hav atand. Mj co-operators cud not agri upon i-dher ov dhe tu' opozing sistems. For bj Mr Jones' "No ny letters" wi shud hav tu uz dhe letters in so bongling a manner dhat dhe child's sound ri zing wud bi discorjd.—Dhe fact ov yzing dhe sam sijn dabl for a sound cwit diferent from dhat fer hwich wi uz dhe sijn singl, az in *moon* and *not. eel* and *el*; and yzing veri diferent sjns for sounds hwich ar aljk, az *not* and *naut, men* and *main*; is a consejshon on-nesessari and a co z dhat li'ds dhe child's mind from simp: lojical ri zing.

Dhe improprjeti ov yzing djgrafs for \int and \mathbb{U} in English is stated in dhe Pronouncing and Spelling Dictionary p 376, 375.

Dhe sistem insisted on bj Mr Longley; "A sijn fer a sound," dhat is meni (19) ny letters; givs tu dhe printed paj so stranj an apirans dhat ti'chers and scu'l e'theritis, az wel as English ri'ders in jeneral ar repolst from macking eni atemt tu bi familiar with dhe sistem, so uz tu apri'shiat its eceselens.—Dhis fitur gratli diminishes dhe probabiliti ov its introducshon.

Dhe sistem, besids bring expensiv and combros in dhe printing ofis, on dhe tiprjter, and in dhe us ev a manual alfabet, is tur radical a chanj frem comon print, tu bi desirabl.

Wi dharfor the't it beter tu felo a midl cours bj adopting a fu (5) ny letters, and so prezerv dhe present apirans ev dhe printed paj az moch az practicali foneticali Dhe sistem wi hav empleid is az consistant as eni dhat has bin propozd. Dhe retension ov h as a medijer in ch, dh, sh, th and zh has bin favor'd bj most Spelling Reformers as a wjz expidient tu giv a familiar luk tu dhe words; and dhi z djgrafs serv ni'rii az wel az ny letters.—Dhe arbitrari mark (tongus) empleid tu indi-