

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELING.

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A FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATION.

I. — AMENDED SPELING.

Where two or more forms of a word ar in use, chuse the simpler, as *adz*, *ax*, *plow*, *wagon*, *program*, *tho*, *Bering Sea*, *Fuchau*. We accept most spelings recomended by the London and American Filologic Societies, the American Asociation for Advancement of Sience, the Royal Geografic Society, the government Boards of Geografic Names of the United States and Canada, and the Simplified Speling Board and Society. As word-lists ar trublsome to remember, the foloing easy rules ar givn to sho the general trend and to cover most of the changes :

EXPLANATION : OMIT useles letters; CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, and *ph* or *gh* to *f*.

Along with, and alternativ to, this partially Amended Speling, ther shud come into widespred use :

II. — ORTHOGRAFY,

a completed and consistent set of word-forms, or New Speling, concurrent with (not to supersede immediatly) the present literary dres of our language. These word-forms shud be at least as regular as those in German, Italian or Spanish, and shud deserv the term Orthografy ('orthoos, rectified, proper, tru, regular) more than they. Eforts to fix and propagate such word-forms hav been continuos from 1845. Work yet to do is of detail chiefly, like a third reading of a bil in a legislature: on its second reading its general principls ar admitted, its ultimat pasage foregon ; it becomes a finisht product "in committee" and on third reading. The first reading was in the quarter century ending 1870, when alfabets of about forty letters wer uzed with insular vowel values. Even difthongs had singl signs. The second read-

ing was in the quarter century after 1870, when more moderat counsels began to be prevalent. Vowel signs wer aranged in natural pairs and wer givn continental values, and difthongs wer exprest by their components. So erth's best minds made careful study, comparison and trial. For us it remains, in ful light of recent wonderful progres in linguistics, to harmonize their resultants into a consistent practical system, listing (say 8000) aproved forms in some Word-Register.

III. — ORTHOEPY.

Orthoepy (as distinguisht from the more general term Pronunciation) is restricted herein to the "proper" average or "receivd" normal of a spoken language. For "English Gramar," according to the old definition, "is the *art* of reading, riting and speaking the English language *with propriety*." Words italicized by us imply selection by convention. Dr A. J. Ellis (*Pronuncia'n for Singers*, p. 25) speaks of typical vowels recognized in the "receivd," "refined," "literary," educated," "cultivated," or rather "central" pronunciation of any language, as distinct from the "vulgar," "rude," "illiterat," "uneducated," "uncultivated," or rather "local" "pronunciations stil herd in difrent parts of difrent cuntries, formerly much more prevalent than at present, and aparently destind to expire.

For English these typical vowels appear to be : *i* in *machsne*, *mill*; *e* in *they*, *get*; *a* in *cat*, *but*, *apart*; *o* in *no*, *potato*, *nor*, *gnaw*; *u* in *put*, *rule*; while *i*, *e*, *a*, *o*, *u*, ar obscure, weak, faint to the ear, or rudimentary or theoretic. We folo the Oxford (NED) or *Standard* dictionaries, especially wherin they ar in acord.

Comparativ Orthoepy treats of the coincidences (if any) and correspondences between receivd speech-sounds ov two or more languages.