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—In a publication of the Canadian Institute, about 1851, *controld* is speld “controulled.” Great Scot! why did they not put c-o-n-t-r-o-u-g-h-l-e-d!

—A bright litl girl, riting a frend, adrest it “care of Pfsar Brown.” She undertook to spel Prof. by ear. Who wil say that she did not succeed, as comonly pronounced.

—No dout simplification of orthograpy wud facilitate considerably the task of lerning to read. A language which like Spanish has reduced speling to a perfectly uniform system has a great advantage over others.—*J. S. Mill.*

—Few stop to reflect that orthog. is the most arduus study for children, consisting almost entirely of *comiting to memory the few hundred words in comon use*, and trusting to lexicon for others: hence each has a clog thruout life in shape of a big dictionary tied to him.

—The *Shorthand Writer* for Dec., 1885, publisht a table giving relativ frequency of all sounds in the language based on selections including in the agregat 20,000 sounds. The comparativ frequency of the folloing sounds is:—

<i>t</i>	1477,	<i>r</i>	1450,	<i>n</i>	1449,	<i>s</i>	1007,
<i>d</i>	893,	<i>l</i>	857,	<i>z</i>	578,	<i>m</i>	555,
<i>c & k</i>	503,	<i>v</i>	440,	<i>w</i>	430,	<i>p</i>	407.

ØI.—The third difthong, that in *coil*, *boy*, and their like, is of quite diferent car-acter from the other two; while they ar mixtures, it is a mere juxtaposition, a union, by abbreviated uterance, of two distinct vowel sounds within the compas of one syllabl, the two being no more blended than if two separat syllabls. Their incombinability is due to their belonging to different series: the first element is “broad *a*” [œ] of *all*; the secnd is palatal, short *i* of *pin*; and the former is the longer and stronger of the two [œ' or œ'i]. Their greater separability may be shown by comparing *loyal* with *trial*, *avocal*; in the first we might question whether the uterance is more loi-al or lo-yal [loi'al or le'yall]; in the others, the *al* is a plain addition to the ai and au sounds, which maintain their character unimpaired.—WHITNEY in Part viii of 2d vol. of *O. & L. Studies*.

THE LATIN ALFABET.—It was extremely deficient, consisting only of A, B, C, D, E, F, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, V, X, to which in ancient times, G, K, Q, wer aded, and, in order to expres Greek sounds, the Greek leters Y, Z, and the digrafs ch, rh, ph, th, the fruitful source of numerus similar contrivances. J, U, W, Æ, Æ, ar post-classical. The varius modern languages of Europ in adopting the same alfabet did not scruple to use at least 17 leters in new senses, to introduce at least 44 new digrafs, and at least 42 new leters formd by ading diacritic marks to old forms.—*A. J. Ellis.*

MARKT LETERS.

To accented leters I object stongly as unsuited for printers, readers, riters, and alfabetarians. Accented leters ar not cast for all fonts of type and ar so seldm cast for consonants or capitals, as practicaly not to exist. When cast, they ar suplied in limited numbers, and ther ar no boxes for them in ordinary compositors' “cases,” so that their introduction even for vowels is practicaly equivalent to new types. For accented consonants, and for new diacritic accents, fresh types hav to be cut. Accents, again, ar always liabl to breakage, especially in “kernd” leters. The compositor redily confuses them, and his erors ar difficult to detect by corrector for pres. These objections aply with les force to accented leters which form part of recognized orthog., as in Fr., Ger., Swedish, Danish, Hungarian, Bohemian, Polish, but even for these they aply to accented leters not in their alfabets. Accents ar liabl to blur and fl. A multiplicity of small marks (and type-founders take pride in making them inconspicuous) is very distresing. When they form part of a language he does not feel efect so much, becaus he does not require to observ with attention. But when they ar numerus, new, and important to distinguish, the case is alterd. I found close attention and frequent use of a lens necessary, in my late study of Lepsius' *Standard Alfabet*. The riter who finds even doting i's and crossing t's a great inconvenience, frequently omits accents (see any Frenchman's manuscripts;) mis-rites them, or rites them so rufly and hastily that they ar extremely difficult to distinguish by any other reader, e. g, the printer, unles he nos beforehand what they o't to be. I no also from experience that when an alfabetarian allows himself to use diacritic marks, he multiplies them excesivly, and inevitably uses them unsystematically.—*A. J. Ellis.*

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