

The Phonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOPEI AND ORTHOGRAFI.

1ST YER. PORT HOPE, CANADA, OCT., 1885. N^O 8.

NEW EXPEDIENTS.—E. JONES, Esq., B. A., of Liverpool, Eng., favors new expedients insted of new letters. From a letter we extract his reasons, exemplifying his orthograpy:

I hav endevoerd tu formeulait the general principlz which shud geid our efforts, and widh every deferenstu dhoez hoo may difer, I hav enlevord tu urj:

1. It iz an indispensabl condishon ov suces that our sistem shud be eezy tu print widh dhe prezent letters found in moest printing ofisez

"2. Dhe sistem shud be az lejibl az it can be maid for prezent readers consistid widh its jeneral fonetic character.

"I entirely agree widh yoo dhat for scool and jeneral purposez we shud not aim at eny grait referment ov pronunsiashon. Profesorz Max Mueller and Whitney ar very emfatic on dhis point."

FIVE RULES PRACTIST.—At meeting of International Shorthand Writers' Asso. at Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 20 21, the followin resolution was proposed by Mrs Eliza B. Burnz of N. Y. City, seconded by Mr Tho s Bengough [Beng i] of Tpron-to, Ont., and past by the Association almost unanimously:

"Resolvd that this Assoc'n, desirous of showing its appreciation of and cordial sympathy with the Speling Refm movement, hereby orders that the report of its proceedings be printed in accordance with the 'Five Rules for Amended Spelings' approved and recommended for general use by the Filological Societies of Great Britain and America, and by the Eng. and Amer. Speling Reform Associations."

APPROXIMATION.—If I don't mistake, nearly every fonotypic publisher claims or allows it to be inferd that his representation of the language is accurat. It wud be better to claim that it is approximat only. It is very doubtful whether the minute shades of pronunciation recognized by a good ear can ever be represented to the eye until some instrument be perfected which wil record actual speech in a personate form. Some adaptation of Edison's fonograf may do this. In the meantime foneticians shud bear with each other in a spirit of compromise.—J. M. M. KINLAY in *Jur. Am. Orthoepy*.

"HOW SPELLING DAMAGES THE MIND" is the title of an excelent paper, four pages long, by Mr F. A. Fernald, in the *Popular Science Monthly* for Septem. The subject is the paralyzing, because so contradictory, effect of current spelling and its necessarily injurius influence on the development of the reasoning powers and this theme is adhered to closely. Amidst much els, we read:

"If our notation of numbers wer as irregular as our notation of speech, so that the numbers from forty to forty-five for instance shud be written, say: 40, 741, 420, 43, 414, 225, and if no one cud tel at sight whether a no. like 7, 243, 862 contained several figures 'silent', or having exceptional values, who doubts that the study of arithmetic insted of being a valuabl disciplin wud be mere mental enervating drudgery? If it wer proposed that children shud lern a style of writing music which gave different values to the same characters similarly placed in different pieces and aded a host of 'silent' notes, the evils of such a system wud be plainly seen."