

The Wawa Shorthand.

In reference to the table of two hundred words in page 178 of August Wawa, the key to which is to be found on page 173 of the same number, it is very easy to see how useful is that table, and how important it is to become thoroughly acquainted with every word in it, and to acquire the habit of writing the words with natural ease.

The following remarks on some of the words in that table will help the pupils to make some others in the same manner.

1. The article *to* is figured by turning the radiating circle *oo* downwards, while to represent *two* or *too*, the radiated circle is turned upwards.

2. The words *I* and *eye* have the same sound, yet the phonetic form can be written in two different positions, to distinguish the one from the other.

3. *Eight* is written by turning the vowel hook below, and *it* by turning it above the horizontal *t*.

4. In *not* the circle vowel is round and full, while in *note* it is narrow and long.

5. *See* is written with the vowel hook forward, and

say with the same backward.

This table has been written with dots and accents wherever required to precise the sounds of the words; in current writing these dots and accents are dispensed with. Sometimes the position of the vowel is sufficient to indicate the presence of an "h" in the word. For an example, "at" is written, with the "ah" circle above, as in the first column, and "hat" with the same circle turned downward, as in the second column: in that case there is no need of a dot to designate the letter "h."

Some of the alphabetical signs are already used to represent whole words. Such as: "the," "in," "on," "I," "you"; every other letter of the alphabet can be affected to represent one word or more, and a very useful abbreviative table could be compiled that way. After all the phonetic letters have been used, compound letters or syllables, short and easy to write could be used to represent long words, and so help the learner to acquire greater speed in reporting. A table of similar abbreviations may find a place in an early issue of the *Wawa*.