

The Phonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND REVISED SPELLING.

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PRONUNCIATION.

(Synopsis of an adre by Dr A. Hamilton
before Durham Co. Teachers' Assoc.
at Port Hope, 23 Oct., 1885.)

As the Education Department of Ontario now wisely set a separat examination paper in Orthoepy and Orthograpy the subject Pronunciation is dubly important to yu. Yu *must* study, teach and practis it. Wud that the same Department relax it's requirements so that a *Revised* Orthograpy shud be alowd as optional along with *Traditional* or that now curent. Let me say:—

1. Our pronunciation is very defectiv: vowels ar blurd and obscured; consonants ar slurd, mouthd and mumbld; words ar run into one another.

2. Even when pronunciation is distinct enuf, the rong sound is ofn givn. Authoritis difere in pronunciation. Yet in words in which ther is agreement we stil hav much bad, ofn uncouth, pronunciation—apart from the dialectic. Teachers themselvs ar ofn at fault in pronunciation.

3. When treatises on anatomy difere, the ultimat apeal is to dissection: when dictionaris as records of practice difere, the apeal is to comparison of sounds as herd in diferent parts of the world. The way in which articulat sounds ar produced by the vocal organs must be studid. This puts it on an anatomico-physiological basis. The laws of acoustics must be folowd. Musical analogy must be taken into account. Comparativ orthoepy, or the pronunciation of languages other than our own, must be considered; as must also the law of accent and emfasis, of metre, rythm and rime—prosody, in one word. Much studius and very careful work has been

done in this field constituting the rising filosofic system of orthoepy.

4. Until Orthoepy becomes fixt as a system we must in great mesure keep by "the authoritis." Of these, Worcester, so excelent as a lexicon in about evry other respect, is very defectiv in pronunciation, as almost all vowels, unles in accented sylabls, ar comonly markt *obscure*—teaching indistinctnes of articulation bordering on slovenlines. Webster is non comital or do as yu-like giving no mark at all to any but vowels in accented syiabls. Both of them, as wel as most others, wer far from simpl, discriminating too many shades of sounds and so having a nomenclature not redily masterd by children. The sounds distinguisht by Walker ar enuf and to be preferd as nearly corect and comendabl as yet—altho ther was reason to question the way he uzed his symbols.

5. A simpl nomenclature was givn by the folowing:—

Sound a a e e i i o o u u u
az in art at ale ell eel it l or ox no up put do
We hav here 3 a-, 2 e-, 2 i-, 3 o- and 3 u-signs, symbols or lettrs—12 in all, the difthong in l or isle (the 13th) being givn a separat sign altho composed of ai. They ar then the 12 vowels of our tung. We hav three difthongs.—The others ar 'ou' ('au' in German) in owl or pound; and 'oi', as herd in oil or boy. The union of y with a vowel is not counted difthongal, w and y being rekond and uzed as consonants, altho closely related to vowel sounds. As y comes so ofn before 'u' and 'ur' it shud hav separat mention. At the beginning of a word, always indicate a y sound by y, as in yuniform, yuseful; and the same shud comonly be done at the beginning of sylabls other than the first, as