

THE FIVE RULES.

"1. Omit *c* from the digraf *ea* when pronounced as *e*-short, as *hed*, *helth*, *sped*, etc.

"2. Omit silent *c* after a short vowel, as in *hav*, *giv*, *liv*, *definit*, *hostil*, *genuin*.

"3. Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet*, *fantom*, *canifor*, *flosify*, *telegraf*.

"4. When a word ends with a doubl consonant, omit the last, as in *shal*, *clif*, eg.

"5. Change *ed* final to *t*, where it has the sound of *t*, as in *lasht*, *imprest*, *flxt*."

The above Five Rules ar, or should be, wel known. We hav *adopted* them as our *minimum* of change—all beyond them is stil open, as we ar satisfied that what we once said is stil true, namely, "Revision of Speling has been injured and retard-
ed by answers that ar premature, by fore-
closure of questions which should hav
been left open. Nobody should expect
to hav accepted an elaborat system of o-
racular dogmas which ring hollow to the
knock of critical inquiry. The 'common
'sens of most' must endorse what wil
stand." The *Jur. Amer. Orthoepp*, in its
April issue, seriously invites all to accept
its solution, supremely unconscious that it
falis in a dozen of ways. The speling in
this paragraf illustrates the effect when
the above rules ar applied so that ther
may be sampls for comparison with an ex-
tension of the rules made by M^r Pitman,
inventor of Fonografy, and inserted here
at his request. M^r P. calls it his "First
Stage," manifestly thinking that the rules
above dont go far enough. Some think
them mended by the extension; others say
that they ar spoiled. We leave the reader
to compare and judge from this and the
paragraf in our "trial corner." Here ar
M^r Pitman's "Five Rules for Improving
Speling, as a First Step toward Sp. Ref^m."

"RULE 1.—The letters *c*, *g*, *x*, are rejected as use-
less, and every other consonant is confined to
the representation of one sound; as one figure
represents one number.

"RULE 2.—*A*, *c*, *i*, *o*, *u*, represent short vowels
in *pat*, *pet*, *pit*, *pot*, *put*; and *u* represents, in addition,
the vowel in *but*. *double*. The diphthongs in
bind, *boy*, *bound*, *beauty*, are written by *ei*, *oi*, *ou*, *iu*;
and the open diphthong in *naive*, *Kaiser*, by *ai*. (*i*,
in preference to *ei*, represents the first person.)

"RULE 3.—*Th* represents the two sounds in
breath, *breath*, (called, as single letters, *ith*, *thee*),
and the recognized digraphs *ch*, *sh*, *ng*, (called, as
singl letters, *chay*, *ish*, *ing*.) represent the sounds
heard in *much*, *quish*, *sing*. *Zh* (*zh*) is introduced
for the voiced *ish* in *vision* (*vizhon*).

"RULE 4.—In monosyllables, and sometimes
in polysyllables, *n* represents *ng* before *k* and *g*,
as *think* (*think*), *anger* (*ang-ger*).

"RULE 5.—The speling of the LONG vowels is
not altered, except in cases of gross irregularity,
such as *beau* (*bo*), *cocoa* (*koko*), *receive* (*reseev*), *be-
lieve* (*beleev*), because any system of digraphs
that might be adopted to represent the long vow-
els would prejudice the reform. Every letter of
the old alfabet is used UNIFORMLY, ONLY for the
representation of consonants, short vowels, and
diphthongs.

"No change iz at preznt proposed in speling
proper namez, whether ov personz or plazez.
This department ov orthografy, ov reit, belongz
to the ownr of the namez, and the inhabitants
ov the plazez."

trial corner.]

WHY NOT WE?—Hou kumz it that when
most nashons ov sivileizd Europe hav rek-
tified their speling, English speling, bei
far in greatest need ov reform, stil remainz
in kaos? Italian iz almost perfekt: Spain
[and Holland] long ago reveizd its orthog-
rafi bei government authoriti; Peter the
Great, the autocrat ov Russia, perjd the
alfabet; onli resentli Germany korektd
sum ov the anomaliz in their speling thru
the Prussian Minister ov Ediukashon;
wheil Wales, poor despeizd Wales, thru
the Eisteddfod, haz kept riten langwaje
az near az posibel in harmoni with spoken
langwaje. After strong kondemnashon
from eminent authoritiz—W.E. Gladstone,
Bishop Thirwall, Max Müller, etc.—iz it
not a wonder that the thing iz stil toler-
ated? Whot iz the reason?.....Welsh
orthografy iz perfekshon and simplisiti it-
self kompared with English. Az far az
Roman ka.akterz permit, it iz in harmoni
with filologik seiens, in that it providez a
leter for everi sound in the langwaje; and
theze leterz ar konsistentli ized; so that
lerning tu read simpli meanz lerning the
namez and soundz ov the leterz. The Ei-
steddfod haz performd the funkshon ovan
Akademi for all materz literari in Wales,
inkluding orthografy.—E. JONES in Pit-
man's *Jurnal*.

DRUNKN S.—Whisky affects locomotion
and so gets calld 'tangi-leg.' It affects the
tung too. *S*, no mater whether sounded
as in *sin*, *vizion*, or as *z*, is changed by the
drunkn into *sh*—at any rate that is fairly
inferred from:—

"A STRICT REGARD FOR TRUTH.—*Nesw*. 'Hold
up, uncl! . eopl 'I think yu 're screwed.' 'Uncl
'No, no, *S* eorgsh! no sh' bad 'sh that! 'shame
time—don' le 'sh be'—(*burching heavily*)—'osht'u-
tash'ly shober: can't bear osht'utash'n.'—Ilus-
trated in *Punch* 10r 9th March, 1890.

Now, what ar the facts?

"LEND A HAND."—Many suppose inven-
tion of differentiated leters a main object,
anxious to display inventiv skil in effecting
solutions that no one els accepts. Much
beter wud it be if such time and talents
wer givn to geting over di cultis a long
way short of this. Ther ar many such
difficultis. If yu, reader, ar not aware of
them, yu ar in such blisful condition that
'twer almost "folly to be wise." Lend a
hand in solving what lies at hand and not
chase rainbows after promist pots of glit-
tering gold. Solv simpler questions: other
difficultis wil then vanish.

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