

Sweet's article in *Ill. London News*, copied into *Jur. Or. & Or.* for Nov., 1907. In 1876 we mistakenly surrendered to "experts" who soon weeded out all old and real workers and put figure-heads in their place and waited for the public to follow. The public with languid indifference waited for them to do something. Result, stagnation. Workers, wiser through experience, began again to re-examine details and now show remarkable progress along amended and preferred lines. To stop this would be suicide.

—Philadelphia alone turns out every year many large volumes (Nothnagel's *System of Medicine* has 12 vols of 1000 pages each) and journals in which preferred or amended wordforms are common.

—When our orchard begins to bear such promising fruit, Sweet advises us to cut it down and wait till doomsday for his experts to agree!

—The translator of Nothnagel's second volume, a Dublin man, in the preface disclaims, in true British spirit, responsibility for spelling.

—The *Jarrow Guardian* and *Wallsend Gazette*, controlled by Dr G. B. Hunter of *Mauretania* fame (see page 179), have each half a column of "Orthographic Notes" weekly, in amended spelling. Certain modified forms are used throughout them.

—Mr T. P. O'Connor, M. P., in his Christmas number of *T. P.'s Weekly*, strongly condemns the waste of time and labor incurred in many of the methods of teaching languages.

—Xmas Greeting: With the season's greeting, and may Health's benefaction be yearz. From Mr and Mrs H. Drummond. Hetton, Eng. Patriots arouse les animashon than taxgatherers.

—French Pronunciation has been worked over much the same as Ellis did for English. M. Bonnard and Am. Salmon do it from early times to about 1500; Charles Thurot, from 1500. Their treatises are published by H. Weiler, Paris, who publishes *Atlas Dialectologique de Normandie* by Guerlin de Guer.

#### LITERATURE.

PHONICS IN OUR [N. JERSEY] PUBLIC SCHOOLS. By Suzan M. Phillips. 10 + 4 pages. Ringos, N. J.

It seems that the sec. of SSB was skeptical as to extensive use of fonic methods of teaching word-analysis and reading in schools. Had he read THE HERALD in mid '80s he might have learned. Fonic and fonetic methods are different roads to one end: to show how far phonics were used in N. Jersey. Miss F., most experienced in both ways, made extensive inquiries of school superintendents and principals. Their encouraging replies appeared in 12-vowel spelling in Larison's *Journal* (May, Oct., '07) of which this is a reprint. In Jersey City

Distinct enunciation and correct pronunciation . . . receive special attention in the primary department. . . . Distinct articulation can be secured only by persistent fonic drill. . . . Defective articulation and pronunciation acquired out of school and habitual can be corrected only by persistent practice and special fonic drills.—P. 9.

#### OBITUARIES: BOSS, PARKHURST.

HENRY RUSH BOSS, born 19 April, 1835, had cancer of tongue two years, and died at home, Chicago, 8th Dec., '07. He was a prominent printer and proofreader. Mr B. in spare time was a diligent worker, and mine of information, almost a bookworm, in printing and language topics, including the slow and steady amendment of spelling.

Important articles by him on word-division appeared in 1907. Chicago papers published nearly everything he wrote. He published for a time the *Chicago Printer*, also the *Proof Sheet*. Both stopped for lack of support. He worked for years on a *Printers' Lexicon*, compiling it and setting type for it himself, and had it stereotyped to N. He published the *Chicago Proof-Readers' Style-Book*, *Kitchen French*, and *Genealogy of the Boss Family*. In his spelling reform loses a strenuous, intelligent and indefatigable worker of good judgment.

HENRY MARTYN PARKHURST, a cousin of Rev. Dr Parkhurst of New York city, born in 1826 in Framingham, N. H., died at home, Brooklyn, N. Y., 21 Jan. 1908. When young he was a newspaper reporter and court stenographer. He published *The Plowshare* in his own alphabet, a 4- or 8-page 12mo sheet kept going for 119 issues during forty years ending 1889. In it he discussed phonetics, shorthand, astronomy, mathematics and (occasionally) politics. He was deeply interested in astronomy and mathematics, working out and publishing a table of logarithms on a duodecimal basis. N. J. W.

#### A REASONABLE CONSERVATIVE.

I rather agree with your remark on p. 189: "Rule I is too sweeping." The two admirably comprehend the 24, and are a good working measure of reform on conservative lines. But to omit all useless (silent) letters gives offense to sticklers for etymology. Could not Rule I read: OMIT useless (silent) letters except when etymologically serviceable? I use *thru* and enjoy its pleasing contrast with clumsy *through*. Swansea, Wales. E. L. PONTIFEX.

[Mr P. is a conservative after Bacon:

"Folio Time itself, which indeed innovated greatly, but quietly, by degrees scarce perceived." Construe "OMIT useless letters" to allow retention of etymologic guides. An early form of Rule I was "OMIT letters phonetically useless," but "phonetically" was dropped later, and later still Plank 7 put in our Platform.]

#### MORE PREFERRED SPELLINGS.

Columbia University, New York city, gives a list of 180 words which its printer is to use. This, though not mandatory to its students, will have that effect. The list is in the class preferred spellings, on a level taken by the Ont. Educa'l Assoc'n in committee in 1900 (see its Proceedings, 1901, p. 43, also our p. 85), and, like these, a selection, not the complete list worked on by Mr Lyon and published by us as far as *bilge*. Up to *bilge* Lyon's list includes all in Columbia's and more, a tribute to his wise thoroughness so far. Beyond *bilge*, we find the following (not found in the 400 on our page 85):