

His failure is believed to be result of defect of ear, tho by no means def, quite as much as a defect of tung or palat. Some of his misspelling ar 'sunderelents' for 'sundry rents,' 'compreated' for 'complicated,' 'laserlacions' for 'lacerations.'

The riter points out that want of power to distinguish vowel sounds is quite as likely to be the caus of bad spelling in comon words as carelesnes amounting to *malice prepense*, or weaknes in machinery which connects movements of hed with the oiders of ear. He continues:

"We might hav expected that, in analogy with color-blindnes, vowel-sounds wud be more likely to be confused than consonant sounds. S far as my experiments hav gon, I infer that inability to distinguish consonants is as comon as a want of discrimination between vowels.

"The confusion caused by explosiv consonants is however more remarkable than that from vowels; the inexperienced ear if dul at catching consonants is capabl of any distortion of sound. To illustrate this, an experiment was tried with a clas of eleven boys, averaging 10½ years, all able to read fluently, one or two being somewhat extensively readers. Some short ordinary words wer selected, which nearly all got right, and thon words specially to test power of hearing, some of which, it was hoped, they had never heard before. Here ar variations of three words (italicized vowels sho interchange in the hard-vowel scale):

differont	capable	ultramarine
1. difcreant	capbul	ultramean
2. differont		ultramarine
3. diferent	capeperbul	altermarine
4. difrerent	capporble	altermerein
5. diferant	canoble	otfremor
6. difrent	capablo	untunmerrein
7. difernt	capabvvely	ultrican
8. difrent	capabibly	ultrern
9. diferant	capabalo	ultermariem
10. differant	ackable	ultermaricn
11. differint	caporble	ultrumerce

"The room was a small one, and the words slyly pronounst twice, each word being ritn immediately after it had been red out. The majority of these boys ar unusually intelligent. The worst speler but one recited, soon after his eighth birthday, "The Bat of Lake Regillus"

"Twenty words in all wer red out. Among them wer 'yellow,' which all got right; 'instance,' five right, one of the best readers giving insentsess; 'anilino,' of which ther appear these variations, 'haniyno,' 'anileng,' 'anelile,' 'ammiene,' 'allience,' the rest being at any rate fonetically correct.

"In majority of these misspellings we at once detect want of experience in use of arbitrary connection between signs and sounds, and feel confident of improvement in time; but when we find a particular fonetic mistake frequently recurring, such as substitution of l for n in 'anilino,' we suspect some defect either in riter or dicator; and, if possibility of mispronunciation in the reader is eliminated, we look for defect of ear or hand, or both, in the riter. Spose that in correcting misspellings we find one or two who can't recognize a word after correct spelling has been shown them, while others had no difficulty, we conclude that ear is faulty in the one or two; and if we find that the same individuals can recognize some sounds and not others, the phenomenon of sound-blindnes is establish, and we hav a satisfactory reason for the fact that some persons seem to spel naturally, while others never ern; as, indeed, how shud a man learn to spel even fonetically, to whom not only the printed sign, but also distinction of sounds, is arbitrary and conventional? and how shud he not learn those ear is a torturing conscience?"

—To appreciate the point of a recent joke in *Grip*, the reader has to recollect that *often* and *orphan* ar pron. alike, (r dropt.)

—"Mecanism of Singing Voice" is title of articl in *Forum* for Feb. by Austin Flint, M.D. When we say that Dr. F. is author of a text-book on fysiology and prof. of the same, the reader wil no what to expect.

—*Items of Interest* is a monthly jurnal of dental surgery, publishd at 1413 Filbert street, Philadelphia, edited by T. B. Welch, M.D., \$1 a year. It is advanced and progresiv as to not only teeth but spelling: in Feb. no. we note thois (beter, tho'ts) for thoughts, catalog for catalogue, mould for mould, hight for height, etc. We look in vain for change of ph to f, which may be taken as blu ribbon of Am. Sp. and a moderat begining; nor do we find d changed to t at all, as we find abscessed, cracked, and checked, insted of abs-st, crakt and chekt.

—"Even most enlightnd Mexican farmers stil persist in using oxen of one color in the morning and oxen of another color in the afternoon. They don't no why they do this, but they no that it must be right, becaus their forefathers did it."—(*Daily paper*.) That is about the way it is with spelling in places not so far as Mexico. We can see their stupidity but ar blind to our own. One wud suppose the inconvenience of hitching up the oxen wud be enuf to condemn it: just so with sp. We keep on sp. so becaus our forefathers did—ther is no reason that wil stand scrutiny.

SPELING PROPER NAMES. — In *Laura Secord, the Heroine of 1812, a Drama, and other Poems*, a volume just from the pres, ritn by a Toronto lady, Mrs. Curzon, the name of the heroine is said to be traceabl bak to "a certn Marquis D'Secor, a Marshal in household of Louis X. of France. . . . On breaking out of Revolutionary War the family divided, the loyalists changing their name to Secord by placing the d at end of name." We hav already noted that Mr. McCulla, of Brampton, drops the useles and sensesles gh from end of his name. Mr. Tomas Bengof (Thomas Bengough) says he has taken the mater of simplifying the sp. of his name "into consideration" like our cautious "lil tyrant" of a (provincial) premier. It is to be wisit that he may reach a favorabl conclusion. If the subject wer lookt up, we hav no dout that considerabl changes in sp. of names has taken place. Those who hav "perfectly awful" names ofn do, and shud, improve them, especially by dropping useles letters. Dr. W. Coburn, Osiawa, Ont., leaves out useles ck ofn found in his name (making it Cockburn). So does Dr. G. H. Coburn, Frederikton, N. B. Dr. McNaughton, Newcasl, Ont., and E. A. Macnachten, Coburg, Ont., ar brothers. Variations in spelling names by diferent members of same connection ar comon.