

MINIMUM & MAXIMUM.—Misunderstanding has arisen: in our prospectus we stated that *min.* of change from ordinary spelling would be the Five Rules, *max.* its own letter for each vowel. In early issues our spelling was a little beyond *min.*, involving certain principles. In last and present issues we have kept closely to the Five Rules and shall do so until a new *min.* is proposed, which we hope to do shortly. Below the *min.*, the question is not open or debatable. Between *min.* and *max.*, there is a fair and open field. We hope to see *min.* gradually raised as fast as there is about unanimous agreement—**CONCORDIASALVS.** Beyond the *max.*—involving new consonants—all is Utopian or visionary, at best theoretical. It is good, in some respects necessary, to have views beyond the *max.* They should be held in theory only. The time to practice is not yet.

U.S.S.R.A. MEETING was held at New Haven, Conn., 9th July. Report set forth that large number of letters of enquiry received proved increase of interest by people generally. Many express dissatisfaction with alphabet of Association, discontent being based almost wholly on their alphabet giving the vowels 'Roman' instead of 'English' values. The report recommends Association to publish a popular exposition of its alphabet giving in detail reasons that led to choice of each letter or rule as against every other letter or rule proposed.* It recommends employing a man to give his whole time to agitation by correspondence, personal interviews and addresses throughout the country. Rev. Dr. Wayland reported for Philadelphia Branch; Mr. A. Fernald, for N.Y. Branch. Chicago and San Francisco Branches also report. Besides the summer meeting, one will be held each year in last week of Dec. in N.Y. Prof. March, of Lafayette Col., was re-elected President.—*F. Educator*

[**Most urgently* needed just now—convincing reasons, not arbitrary dogmatism. Agreement on an alphabet will then come naturally and finally. No one now sees beyond the narrow circle of his own partial views.—EDITOR.]

WHY have we double *l's* in *full* and *fill* when single ones are enough in *fulfill*?

THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN ORTHOGRAPHY, published at Ringos N. J., devotes the whole of its May-June 85 number to opinions of many active workers as to an improved 12 vowel alphabet. A sample of Pitman's in its four stages, by Pitman himself, is given; as is also two other very good, but not quite the very best, alphabets. "We bid you be of hope, gentlemen. We are making progress. Only keep the ebullition going—don't stop—and we shall succeed. As agitation stops, the molten mass will crystallize into alphabetic forms, the new as beautiful as the old Roman letters and in harmony with them. Don't talk sentiment but work. Begin work by remitting \$1 for a year's subscription to the *Journal*—at any rate, send 15 c. for the double number.

MR. A. L. BANCROFT, 721 Market St., San Francisco, Cal., recently presented an improved alphabet to the California State Teachers' Association. It provides separate shapes for 41 distinctions of sound. It has been published, being engraved on a large sheet with lithographic examples of its script. Those interested in alphabets should remit 10 cents for a copy. "Prove, *si e. try,* all things; hold fast what is good." Every alphabet should be "seasoned" two years before public presentation. We believe that Mr. B. has not yet given a printed example.

"SCHOOLMASTER'S ENGLISH."—Prof. A. S. Hill, of Harvard, in an article on English in Schools, in *Harper's Monthly* for June, p. 127, says: "Among the things which teachers of every class should avoid is what I must be pardoned for calling 'Schoolmaster's English.' All those whose business brings them in contact with young minds, and who are to a great extent cut off from intercourse with the world of men and women, are apt to attribute undue importance to petty matters; to insist upon rules in cases where the best usage leaves freedom of choice; to prefer bookish and dignified ways of putting things to easy and natural ones."

A or Q? A or Q?—Left over till next.

S. R. A. means Spelling Reform Association.