

B. ASIATIC DIVISION.

7. *Indían.* { Sanskrit, Cingalese, Hindu, Gypsy.
 8. *Iranzian.* { Zend. Cuneiform, Persian.

III.

We have twenty six signs in the alphabet, but as *c*, *j*, *x*, *w*, and *y* are redundant we have only signs for twenty-one sounds. There are forty-two elementary sounds in one language hence we should have forty-two signs.

These sounds, classified, are the following 12 simple vowel sounds:

- 4 of *a*—fall, father, fate, fat.
 2 of *e*—led, feel.
 1 of *i*—tin.
 3 of *o*—not, note, cool.
 5 of *u*—full, but.

2 semi-vowels—*w* (wet) and *y* (yet).

4 liquids—*l*, *m*, *n*, *r*.

16 mutes and semi-mutes—*p*, *v*; *f*, *v*; *t*, *d*; *th* (thin), *th* (thine); *k*, *g*; *s*, *z*; *sh*, *z* (azure); *ch*, *j*.

4 others—*r* in work
 ng in song
 h in hot
 wh in why.

4 Diphthongs—*ou* in house; *eu* in feud;
 i in pine, and *oi* in voice.

Total, 42.

IV.

Like most alphabets ours came originally from the old Phœnician, and that probably from a more remote system of hieroglyphics. But we get it through different channels which partly accounts for our eccentricity in spelling. These channels are Hébrew, Greek, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, French, all substantially one but differing in the signs for sounds peculiar to each. Thus Greek omitted *ts*, *f*, and *ch*, but added five new ones.

The Latin borrowed it from the Greek and omitted *x*, *z*, *o* and *k*, but afterwards added *z* and placed it last.

The French is Latin.

The Anglo-Saxon resembled the Greek in sound but the signs were

taken from Latin with omissions and additions, *j*, *q* and *z* are left out, *c* was hard, *cc*=*ch* and *g*=*y*.

Old English as to its sounds is taken from the Anglo-Saxon, but as to its signs from Norman French, *i. e.*, Latin.

The order of the alphabet in all the languages is the same, hence they are sometimes called the *abedonian* alphabets in contradistinction to the Runic alphabet which from its order is called the *Futhork*.

The following has been suggested as the reason for the order of our alphabet, viz: The alphabet consisted originally of sixteen letters, and of these *a*, *e*, *o* were the chief vowels each of which was followed by a labial, palatal and lingual, thus:

Vowel.	Labial.	Palatal.	Lingual.
A	B	C	D
E	F	G or H	D h
(I	L	M	N)
O	P	K	T.

V.

The definitions of the different parts of speech are given with sufficient accuracy by most of our text books on grammar. In giving a definition we should see that we indicate the chief function of the particular part of speech by a sufficient number of particulars to separate it from any other part.

The articles (for there are two of them) could not be made into one separate part of speech, for they perform essentially different duties, but as the functions of both come within the province of the adjective there is no need to consider them as anything else than adjectives, *an* as a quantitative adjective (it is really the word *one*), and *the* as a distinctive adjective, being demonstrative in meaning and origin.

VI.

This may be got from any book, but in making a classification we should endeavor to be logical and exhaustive.

VII.

In Anglo-Saxon nouns were com-