

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## FRANCE.

SIR,—I am glad that yur monthly is going ahead. It's a bright litl paper and can drive a nail where bigger ones wud fail.

The French S. R. A. (*Société de Réforme Orthographe*) is going on all right. Prof. L. Havet has joind us; others will folo soon. I believ the Academy will make a few (very slight) changes shortly.

I hav started a clas of Scientific fonetics which is wel attended.

Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. P. PASSY.

[The French Association issue a monthly bulletin. It is publisht with the *Instituteur Sténographe* and may be had for a year by sending 50 cents tu E. Faivre, 25 Rue Brézin, Paris.]

## FONOTYPY.

SIR,—Why do yu not use ful fonotypy, "a sign for each sound?"

Seaforth, Ont.

W. N. WATSON.

[Beacuz it costs \$5 to hav made a punch for a new sh'pe. If a capital be required, another \$5 is requisit. Hence \$10 is needed for each modification of a letr, and that for each size of type. We aim at having cast a neat new font of type of this size which will properly set off the Educational stage and indicate good pronunciation. We hav been using imperfect makeshifts. Our correspondent and evry reader ar hereby invited to contribute litl or much to a Type Fund. Independent of all cost we take a world of time and trubl. No one can foresee exactly what modifications of letrs—we do not advocate new letrs—it is best to employ. Associations ar now actively at work in Sweden, France, Britan and America. They will extend farther and wider. Manifestly, the plans adpcted must harmonize. We must move in concert, so far as plans can be foreseen. We advance—sloly, surely, as far as we hav light. We mean busines. Ar yu in sympathy, reader? If so, how much? \$5 worth? \$1 worth? Or does yur appreciation fizl out in words? "Speak now, or ever after hold yur peace."—ED.]

OBITU.—Signor Louis Bertoloto died recently in Port Hope, Ont., at the age of 82. A nativ of Genoa, he had resided and traveld all over Europ. He came to Canada as steward to Sir Edmund Head, Govenor-General, in 1857. He afterwards held the same post to the Stadacona Club, Quebec. He spoke his nativ Italian wel, and was familiar with its literature, as wel as that of most modern tungs. He was a warm advocat of Amendment in Orthograpy. The orthograpy of Italian, Spanish, and German is so simpl in comparison with ours that it was a marvel to him how we ever came to drop into such a barbarus system of con-

tradictory irregularitis. It was beyond his comprehension how anyone cud be so blind as not to see them or so lost to all orthographic decency as to defend, when pointed out, the reched, antiquated printed and ritn drapery in which we stil insist on keeping clad the noblest language of them all. He had apeard at most European Courts. His fund of information was ful—in many ways we wer indeted to it. He wisht for deth rather than feard it. REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

## SYLLABLES.

A sylabl may consist of a vowel only, or of a vowel preceded or folod, or both preceded and folod, by any articulation.

The articulations L and N, frequently constitute sylabls without vowels sounded; as *ripp(l)e*, *ris(e)n*, *ev(e)n*, &c.

The letr M has the same syllabic effect in such words as *rhythm*, *chasm*, &c.

These letrs, L, M, and N, tho perfect articulations, hav almost a vowel purity of voice, from the opennes of the oral aperture [for L] or the nasal one [for M and N] in their formation.

Evry sylabl in a word and evry element in a sylabl shud receiv its definit and exact sound, however rapid the pronunciation.—*Bell's Elocution*, §§ 27-30.

## TEACHING LANGUAGES,

The question how languages may best be taut on fonetic principls has not hitherto receivd much attention. . . . Some ov our leading foneticians hav admited that one of the greatest difficultis they found in lerning French pronunciation acuratly was the fals teaching which had been ingrained into them at school. The only possibl way to lern foren sounds correctly is to make this study (of the sounds) the earliest, and til it is acomplisht, to avoid all gramar and riting of exercises. . . . Ther is no reasonabl provision for the study of Speech-sounds at any university in these [British] ilands. We o't to hav scientific specialists, able to train yung students in fonetics and alfabetics; to bring them into actual contact with the living phenomena of speech, insted of condeming them to puzl over the ded conventionalitis of orthograpy. But when ar we likely to hav any such university scool of original reserch in fonetics? Not until the Germans hav exhausted the subject, and taut us how our education shud be organized.—*Lecky*.

— "To do so or not" wer five consecutiv words recently seen by us in a newspaper. It will be observd that the letr o occurs in each word, but it does not represent the same sound in any two. Can anything be more stupidly irregular? To teach children by such a self-contradictory and perplexing method is absurd.