

TERMS: (ten issues annually) per year, 25c.; 5 years, \$1 75 Cops. to one adres. in advance, per year, 60 cents; 16 ditto, \$1 Foren stamps taken. Bound volume for any past year, 25 cts. Adres THE HERALD, 125 Harbor St. PLEASE SUBSCRIBE.

THE LINE OF VISION.

Dr. Javal, of Paris, made a report of certn observations of great interest and importance. If tru, as we ar inclind to think they ar, the principl involvd shud hav weight in helping to determin what modifications shud be adopted for alfabetic shapes as being most legibl. The statements ar made in Report of the Comisioner of Education. We giv a condensd translation :

" In reading ther is no time to examin each leter in all its parts ; so far is this from being the case, that the eye travels along a perfectly horizontal line which cuts all the short letters (such as a, c, e, etc.) at a point just belo the top, the other part of the letters being seen indirectly, and striking regions of the retina more or les distant from its center. Dr. Javal givs a number of proofs in suport of this proposition, the easiest being the foloing : Cover with a piece of paper the uper haf of the short letters in a line of print, and it wil be found nearly imposibl to read it, but if the uper haf is left expozd, & d the loer conceald, scarcely any difficulty wil be experienst. Moreover, taking into account capitals and accented letters [numerus in French], ther ar, out of 100, at least 85 letters rising above the uper portion of the short letters and only 15 falling belo the line. These facts ar of importance in determining the shape to be adopted for type. [They indicate a modification above as beter than a tag belo]. It is desirabl to giv letters such shapes that they may dife from one another as much as posibl in the parts along which the line of vision travels."

SWEDEN.

The Rættstavningselskap, or Swedish S. R. A., establisht in 1885 under presidency of M. A. Noreen, profesor in University of Upsala, counts 800 members, among whom is a very large proportion of profsors, instructors, and the first linguists in Sweden. It organ, *Nystavaren*, appears at irregular intervals. The society does not propagate, as other societis do, both a fonetic orthografy and one partialy reformd : it uses a fonetic spelling only (without new characters.) To make *amen*'s, ther exists, outside the Society, a very inportant movement for moderat reform, at hed of which ar found linguists Tegner, Lyttkens and Wulff. In spite of this reg'etabl split, traditional spelling appears in a wors way ther than elsewhere.—*French Bulletin Mensuel*,

[The last statement means that spelling now current in Sweden stands a good chance for considerabl amendment, and that soon. —Ed.]

LITERATURE.

ELEMENTE DER PHONETIK und Orthoëpie des Deutschen, u. s. w. (Elements of Speech-Analysis and Pronunciation of German, English and French, with reference to the Tutor's Wants, by W. Viotor, 2d edit., improved. 270 pages, 8-vo, paper. Henninger Bros., Heilbronn, Prussia, 1887. Price \$1.20.)

ELEMENTS OF ORTHOEPY : consisting of the most esential Facts and Principls compiled for use as a text-book in Academy of Sience and Art at Ringos, N. J., by C. W. Larison, M.D., Principal, etc. 268 pages, 12-mo, cloth, 2d edition. Publisht by author at Ringos, N. J., 1887. Price \$1.25.

Prof. Viotor's is a treatis on speech-sounds after the modern scientific method. The Introduction givs cuts of vocal organs with apropiat description of structure and function. Part I givs a ful account of the different sounds in the three tungs. His treatment of vowels is ful, lucid and intently interesting, especialy as the author is so wel acquainted with literature of subject and familiar with works of such names as Bell, Ellis, Meyer, Sweet, Storm, Trautman, Sievers, Evans, and later Franke and Passy. We might expect to find names of Willis, Donders (of Utrecht), Helmholtz, Wolf and Seiler, who hav delt with the acustico-musical side of the question, but this does not enter into scope of this book, altho a part (pages 194 to 218) treats of related subjects as Tone, Accent, Strength, Duration, Loudness, and Pitch. Bell's usual 36-place vowel table is reproducd with evry place filld by a sound from a living tung. Yet he does not folo Bell's system nor any modification thereof. His plan is that of key-words, necessity for which Bell himself appears to hav alowd in recent publications. Insted of reference to key-words only, V.'s plan is rather a resultant of that plan combined with latest reserches in vocal fysiology. Vowels ar groupt into *a*-sounds, *e*-sounds, *i*-sounds, *o*-sounds, and *u*-sounds, which makes his meaning plain and justifies term lucid aplyd to this and all other parts of it. It wud hav been more truthful to hav clast our vowel in *ox*, *not*, or *what*, as an *a*-sound. This view of ours has been confirmd independently by Powel, as our readers wil recolect. The *v* in *ox* or *what* is close *a*, as that in *father* is open *a*. Both ar low sounds; neither is lip-rounded. Open *o* (*o*) is slightly lip-rounded; close *o*, quite so. To open *u* (*u*) and close *u* (*u*) it appears proper to aply the term lip-protrusion, if indeed the later be not the proper term generally. Our *a*, *o*, *u*, vowels wud then be exprest in order of desending natural pitch, with increas of lip-protrusion (from none in *a*-sounds to its extreme in close *u*), thus, *a*:*o*:*u* : *o*:*o*:*u* : *u*:*u*. It may be notist how