

—A reading-room in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, asks and receives THE HERALD.

—We began using *ɪ* (equivalent to *i*) as an alphabetic symbol in Jan., 1897. Since about 1899 it has been used widely, but for *i* in *in*, not *i* in *machine* as employed herein all along. This is due largely to *i* having only the *machine*-sound in French. So Passy (and others folo) uses *ɪ* for this non-French (and, to him, foren) sound. We think the original value assigned it the better, and urge that it be used so.

LETTER BOX.

*C. R.*: *almoud* and *haud* on p. 155 shud be *almond*, *hand*. . . . . Neither *aneurism* nor *aneurysm* is found in Preferd Spellings on p. 120 becaus reason for choice was absent. The N. E. Dict'y says :

"The spelling with *y* is etymological; but that with *i*, by form-associ'n with *-ism*, more frequent."

*S. E. B.*: Script *ɪ* is upward script *r*. It is often made necessarily much like *e*. *r* itself is always ritn downward. Script *ɛ* is *é* (French *é* in *bébé*, *été*, *coupé*, *café*, *CAFÉ*, regular and uniform in French) made with one pen-stroke. Script *Λ* is script *A* (*A*-like) with its long legs omitted.

*E. W.*: "hiir" for *here* on p. 156 is not a misprint. In America many use a rather prolonged *i* (like that in *spirit*) in *clear*, *here*, *hear*, *oh dear!* (not *deer* in Toronto). Larison uses *i* in *birth*, *first* (*Λ* prevails in this region). Presumably an Adirondak woodsman said *hiir* for *here*.

*L. C. P.*: Mr Lyon has made out Preferd Spellings to end of C. Limited space forbids insertion unless in a Supplement. A-words ar found on pages 120, 121; B-words to *bilge* ar on pages 146, 148.

AMENDMENT IN FRENCH SPELLING.

(From the London Daily Mail.)

The French Government Comision's report on reform of French is before the Academy for criticism and modification and may lead to many changes in French grammar and spelling. The Academy has to acknowledge another king in Brentford. For 250 years it alowd no dissent from its magisterial decisions on filologic questions—or, at least, when overborne by the rush of genius from Moliere to Victor Hugo, it took care to make inovaters consios of sin in wishing to move faster than the Forty Immortals. The Academy is forced to yield to the democratic spirit. Its obstinat endeavor to "stand on ancient ways" and retain even French imperfections, simply becaus time-onord, has receivd a nasty jar from the Government, quietly using its complete control of public education.

In 1891 the French Minister of Education chargéd inspectors and examiners not to lay undue stres on minor mistakes in spelling, or to delight in triping students—as examiners ar apt to do—with out-of-the-

way forms, irregular verbs, od plurals, anomalos genders, etc. In 1900 a circular brusht aside some minute difficulties due to unsientific gramarians in the eighteenth century. The famos decree of 26 Feb., 1901, made a sweeping reform in more complicated parts of french syntax—exceptional genders and plurals that vex the schoolboy wer suprest—a good deed now rounded off by announcing that in future the plural is always with *s*, never with *x*.

NORTHERNERS IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Most towns on the Kansas City Southern Railway [running south to Port Arthur on the Gulf of Mexico] hav large eastern and northern contingents. Kansas City is more New England than Boston, for ther is no brogue, nor is the polyglot twang of New York's lingo herd. Neosho, Joplin, Pittsburg, Siloam Springs and Fort Smith each hav a large proportion of citizens from north and east, and ar perhaps wider between eyes than brethern they left behind. Port Arthur is setld entirely by northern folk, Shreveport and Texarkana largely so, tho, if out to buy clothing, yu may hear dialect imported *via* New York. Most immigrants to west Arkansa, east Texas, west Luisiana, come from Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois. As a rule, better English is herd west of the Misisipi than east of the Alleghanies [becaus populaton is more fused?]. Cuntry populations, as a rule, come from the same localities as the townspeopl.

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THE ELEMENTS OF STRENGTH.

On p. 88 a formula is stated. It is  $s = f(d, i, p)$ , which ("being interpreted," as the good book says) means : a syllabl's strength is a compound function of its duration, its intensity and pitch.

In our language a syllabl's strength or force or vim (*v*) plays an important part in all speech, verse especially. Stres appears left out of account in the formula. Acordingly, amend it to read :  $v = f(d, i, p, s)$ , where *d* is duration, *i* intensity, *p* pitch, and *s* stres. A syllabl's strength is a compound or complex function of its duration, intensity, pitch and stres. *i* and *p* ar interrelated; *s* may not be independent. Strong, average and weak stres ar shown by a raisd period, hyfen and period (··) after the syllabl (as *indivisibility* in-di.viz-i.bil-i-ti-). Alternativly, weak syllabls ar shown by a small vowel (indivizibil·ti). Duration above average is shown by dubling or by apostrofe or other mark (·) as in *walk* on p. 160. Intensity over average