

The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOËPI AND ORTHOGRAPFI.

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ALFABETIC STUDIZ.

I.—HOW MANY VOWELZ? AND WHICH?

The last buletin ov the U. S. Speling Ref. Association iz just tu hand. The folowing iz the vowel scheme givn in it, tharfore approved by the Association:

Short.

1. I i, pick, it.
2. E e, them, ell.
3. A a, cap, at.
4. O o, fast, ask.
5. O e, not, what, odd.
6. O o, wholly, obey.
7. U u, but, up, won.
8. U u, pull, wool.

Long.

9. pique, peak, eat.
10. they, veil, ail.
11. care, air, ere.
12. far, are, ah.
13. nor, all, awe.
14. holy, owe.
15. burn, urge, word.
16. rule, pool, ooze.

The Association propozez a diferens ov shape for each ov the sounds calld *short*, and tu indicate the coresponding so-calld *long* sound by the same shape with the comon mark ov length, a horizontal stroke, abuv. Thus, the vowel in *they* wil be denoted by 'e' with stroke abuv. In explanation, it iz stated:—

Nations which use the Roman alfabet make the same letr stand for a short vowel and its long, distinguishing the two, when needful, by a diacritical mark, uzually the macron. Slight diferenses ov quality ar disregarded. It iz propozd tu use the new alfabet in this way. In popular print the diacritical mark may always be omited, ecsept where a diferens ov quality iz *felt*."

It shud be notist that the words 'fast' and 'ask' ar expected tu be pronounst with the *a* like that in the word *father*.

Altho the terms *long* and *short* ar used it iz not intended tu imply that the *long* difer from the *short* in quantity only: it iz expresly stated that 'slight [?] diferenses in quality ar disregarded.' So that between a so-calld *long* and its coresponding *short* vowel ther may be a diferens in both quantity and quality.

Now here iz a mudl (tu put it mildly) not desirabl. The chief distinguishing qualitee ov sounds shud be discriminated and indicated by establish dif ferenses in the shapes ov the faces ov the letrz reprezenting them. This iz a very important principl. Each shape shud with unvarying constancy indicate infalibly *its own* elementary sound.

By this mixture ov new letrz and diacritics, 16 distinctions ov sound ar made while ther ar but 12 sour. thos numberd 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 13 16. The