

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

4TH YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, DEC., 1888.

N^R 40.

THE 24 RULES.

The linguists hav formulated 24 Rules for Amending Speling. The rules ar givn on p. 31. They ar found cumbrus and highly impracticabl as a guide to spel by. An ordinary user of them canot hav his evry word

"Sicklid o er with the pale cast of tho't."

but shud hav his speling "come by nature," like Dogbery's; in other words, he must hav a guide redily aplid. So, over 3 years ago, we proposid the simpl rules we hav folod and hav givn so ofn.

Cern rules hav been specially objected to: as

6.—For *e* having the sound of *u* in *but*, *rite* *u* in *abuse* (*abuv*), *dozen*, *some*, and the like.

7.—Drop *e* from *ou* having sound of *u*, as in *journal*, *nourish*, *trouble*, *rough* (*ruf*), *tongue* (*tuf*), and the like.

8.—Drop silent *u* after *g* before *a* and in nativ Eng. words, as in *guard*, etc.

22.—Drop *t* as in *catch*, *pitch*, *witch*, etc.

On p. 140, Mr. Knudsen has objected to rules 6 and 7, objections he has repeated in Nov. no. of Phonographic Magazine. If we change above to *abuv*, and *u* is to retain cosmopolitan values as in put and rule, then "abuv" will not be final but wil hav to be reformd to *abuv* or some such form—a stil-begining, never-ending affair. Mr. K.'s opinions, not having been formd hastily, ar entitled to weight as is likewise that of Mrs. Burnz, an advocat of orthographic amendment for years. On p. 108, she has found fault with rule 8 because no one unles he be an Anglo-Saxon scolar can tel when to aply it and when not.

The 22d Rule changes *catch*, etc., into *catch*, etc. But *ch* is by very many held equivalent to *t* and *sh* and so it wud be beter to change *catch*, *pitch*, *witch*, etc., to *catsh*, *pitsh*, *witsh*, etc. It wud be beter to hav a rule reading "Change *tch* to *tsh* if sounded so" which cud then be grafted on the Rules* we spel by. If so wisht, it cud be made more sweeping stil by having

it read "Change *ch* to *sh* if sounded so." Then French, branch, Michigan, etc., become French, bransh, Mishigan, etc., tho it may wel be questiond if proper names shud come under rules—in general they ar to be left unchanged.

INDIVIDUAL AND LOCAL PRONUNCIATION.—No two persons, almost, pronounce exactly alike. This difference is most strongly markt among vulgar dialects, and even in educated circls ther is anything but uniformity of pronunciation. This is a difficulty with which any system of wordnotation has to cope. On one hand no notation cud be made so all-embracing as to include the infinit varetis of dialectic and individual peculiaritis of pronunciation. On other hand no system of orthograpy cud be firmly establisht as to abolish that variety. We must make up our minds that whatever reform we achieve, the Scotsman, the Irishman, the Welshman, the north and the south cuntryman wil each as heretofore indulge his litl peculiaritis. Let him. It is not proposd that he shud hav opportunity of offending our eyes with them on paper any more than he has now. All that is aleged is that ther is such a thing as CORRECT pronunciation, and that we want a system of orthograpy which wil represent that pronunciation as nearly as possibl, allowing for differences, and going upon the principl rather of clasifying and aranging, than one of hair-splitting.—F. J. KINGSEY at Manchester "Shorthand Ritters' Asoc'n."

—Ther is a riding master in Prag who has had his hole larynx removed, and who not only livs in aparently good health but is enabled to speak by means of artificial vocal aparatus. One of these appliances is used for issuing his orders in riding-scool and another for ordinary conversation.

*REVISED SPELLING:—MIT uscles letters; CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, *tch* to *tsh*, if sounded so

These pages hav a misionary object. Yur influence to extend circulo'n is solicited.