

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The *HERALD* is always welcome, the last number specially so. I shal watch with interest the 'test and try' experiment of Major Story. We shud by all means get into scools. Why not?

## ANALYSIS OF SPEECH SOUNDS

or the genesis of sounds by the relative positions of the organs of speech is very interesting. The vowel scale submitted by Mrs Burnz is a very practical one. Why shud we 'invent' new expedients and new letrs when we hav familiar symtols redy to hand for evry simpl and compound vowel sounds? as

SHORT { a e i o u ũ  
VOWELS { pat pet pit pot but put  
LONG { aa ai ee aw oe oo  
VOWELS { bazaar ail eel awl foe ooze  
DIFTHONGS OR { ei oi ow ew  
COMPOUND VOWELS { eider oil owl ewer

## DIFTHONGS

do not need to hav their elements defined with scientific precision. Theoris vary considerably, for instance, as to components of *ei* in *eider* and of *ow* in *owl*. The practical result is not affected by the theory: we hav easily recognized sounds associated with these symbols. While analysis is most interesting to the scientist, it does not tuch practical fonetics.

## PAIRING VOWELS

is not necessary in a practical working alfabet. It wud be difficult perhaps to find an exact pair of vowel sounds, long and short. Why then trubl so much about pairing when what we want is to asociate with a certain sound an invariabl symbol. Iz\* it posibl or dezirabl tu atempt tu represent dhe feiner

## SHALDZ OV SOUND.

by symbols? Mr A. J. Ellis haz cleerly shown dhat every vowel leter represents a group ov soundz; dhat dhe *specific* sound of each simbol depend on a vareity ov condishonz. Dhe *specific* sound ov dhe vowel iz affected by the soundz going befoer and cuming after, espeshaly r. It iz a controversy az old az fonetics whedher dhe sound in Lord iz not *aw*, but *ei* dont remember seeing eniunw propoez tu spel Lord, Lawrd. Why? Becauz dhe vowel iz lengthend by dhe foloing r. Agen, iz it not a fact

dhat children lern dhe feiner shaldz ov speech moer from imitashon ov dher teacherz playmats and parents? My point iz dhat it iz posibl in our skeemz tu atempt too much refinement forgetting dhe weiz counsel ov S.R.A. dhat in eny skeem free play must be alowd for local and individual peculiarity.

25 Selborn St., Liver- }  
pool. 10th Joon, 1886. } E. JONES.

[\*From this point the orthograpy of the riter is folowd. The critical reader wil observ that ther is not rigid adherence to the symbols promulgated but easy drifting toards old speling in several words.—ED.]

## AMERICAN PRONUNCIATION.

[The foloing arises from our statement on p. 50 that, excepting certan peculiaritis, American speech is comparativly homogeneous, or free from dialect. By request, and for experiment's sake, it is put in an old-letr plan favord by M. Part of the reasons for M's chois may be inferd from what he has rittn page 49. *U* or *uy* is used for *i*, *y* for the vowel in *eel*, *es* or *ey* for that in *atl*, *uu* and *wo* for those in *ooze* and *owl* respectively.]

EDITER *HERALD*: SER.—Hweir yun fund dhe yuniformiti in dhi pronunsiashun ov dhi Amerikan pypl iz a puzl tu mg. Dhi abnormali larj proporshun ov pypl spyking Ingghlish tu huum it iz not dhi vernakyular renderz dheir yuazajez mor luikli tu by distruktyv ov dhi byuutiz ov Ingghlish spych dhan dizerving ov bying perpetuited. Dhi number ov dialektz and influenzez advers tu pyuriti is infintli greiter dhan in dhi mudher kuntri, dher bying Nygro, Jerman, Italyan, several Skandinavian, Rushyan (Menonuit). Chuingz, Indyan, and udher foren, besuidz Nyuu Ingghland or "Yangky," sudhern or western, ol syuperaded tu dhi Ingghlish, Skotish, and Urish dialektz brot intu dhi kuntri buy imigrants. In dhi mudher kuntri, dhi spych ov edyukeited pypl duz not difer mor wuidli dhan on dhis kontinent; it tendz mor and mor tu asimileishun, and dhi veri narownes ov dheir limits renderz dhi proses mor gzi. It iz dhi perfekshun ov dhi modez ov spych ov meni diferent pypl ol ov huum hav olweyz spoken Ingghlish; and it is dhi spych hwich is tu-dey folowd buy edyukeited spykerz thruuwt dhi Ingghlish-spyking werld. In Ostreilya, dhi therd greit senter ov Ingghlish spych, dhi influens ov dhi spych ov old Ingghland iz paramuwnt.

M.

[Diference of opinion arises from a