

tween *coco*, *cocoa*, and *coca*, three entirely distinct vegetable products. For *coco*, he is able to cite not only Johnson's own use as opposed to his dictionary, but the Laureat, who in 'Enoch Arden' rites:

The slender *coco*'s drooping crown of flowers.  
Dr Murray also is quoted as riting, "I shall certainly use *coco* in the 'Dictionary' and treat *cocoa* as an incorrect by-form."

SHAKSPERE.—Shakspeare himself never claimed the plays. He did not put his name on the title-leaf of any of them; for the name on title-leaf is in every case "William Shakespere," very often printed with a hyphen, thus, "Shake-speare," while three signatures to his will and two others to legal instruments, these being the only autographs we have, are in each case spelt *Shakspere*, which must have been pronounced *Shak-spere* [Shak'sper]. This seems to have been the accepted pronunciation in Stratford. In records of its Town Council the name of Shakspere's father occurs 196 times, and in not one instance is it spelt *Shakespeare*. It is given as *Schack-sper*, *Shackesper*, *Shakspere*, *Shaxpeare*, and *Shaxper*. In "the poet's" marriage bond it is "Shagspere".—IGNATIUS DONNELLY in *North American Review*.

TERCENTENARY, ETC.—I wud also refer to advantage of representing our language by sound; that is: truly, certainly and without doubt. You can scarcely hear an address in public in which there is not some variation between the speaker's pronunciation and another man's. Our president has accustomed himself to say *ter sen ten' ari*.—There is no harm in that, but it is an indictment against our alphabet and sp. His lordship has not noticed a law of orthoepy that runs thru language, namely, all long words ending in *ary*, *ery*, *ory*, are accented on fourth syllable from end. If his attention were called to that, he wud say *ter sent' a no ri*.—*Pitman*. It is doubtful whether Mr Pitman's advice will be generally followed; certainly his reasoning is not convincing. The majority of long words with terminations mentioned may be pronounced as Mr P. wud have them; but, as one takes tho't, a crowd of words present themselves to oppose his general statement. The following occur first to the mind: *anniversary*, *complimentary*, *satisfactory*, *dedicatory*, *congratulatory*, *ambulatory*, and they might be indefinitely increased.—H. DE LA HOOK in *London Times*. They are generally such as refuse accent on fourth syllable from end. . . . . The words that follow the general law are about 350, and those that are ranged under another law are about 50. The pronunciation *ter sen ten' a ri* wud carry with it centenary (*sen ten' a ri*), *sep ten' a ri*, etc. We shud thus almost lose the idea involv'd

in the root of the word. A few are accented on fifth syllable from the end, as *laboratory* (*lab' o' r i' o' ri*).—I. PITMAN, *ibid*.

—English spelling simply disgraces civilization. We every now and then assume a theatrical attitude and explain to the world that we are a practical people; that we don't pretend to do any great feats in the airy realms of imagination; but if you want to realize what it is we are, set us a practical problem, etc. Here is a practical problem at the very hand of the Anglo-Saxon race, and has so lain for 1000 years. *Let them reform their spelling*. Within 300 years the gay Italian, the serious Spaniard, and the flegmatic Dutchman have taken stock of their instruments of speech, and have brought spelling into conformity, partly with fonetics, partly with common sense. In our day the plodding German has detected anomalies in spelling his language, and has culminated the only thunderbolt with which he is acquainted—a military ordinance—for their prompt and immediate elimination. But we? Well, we practical Britons go on year after year, and age after age, using the most absurd instrument of speech non to man; when asked to make some moderate changes for our own benefit and for the benefit, above all, of our children, we raise objections on the score of trouble.—St Helen's *Lantern*.

IOWA.—The State Teachers Assoc'n has adopted Amended Sp. in 13 words: *ar, bar, gard, shal, hed, definit, wil, gir, wisht, tho, catalog, thru*. The School Board of Grinnell over a year ago published a list of some 200 words with sp. amended mostly by omission to be used in schools under its supervision. The *Republican* (Cedar Rapids) says that if this reform is ever to be fairly and thoroughly tested it will have to be taken up by newspapers. It gives practical trial in its Tuesday issue, "hence the seemingly regardless spelling." It says: "Of course, the first thro't of our readers will be protest. . . . after they have got used to absence of final *e*, *ugh*, etc., can they bring themselves to say 'The changes are sensible and should be generally adopted?' That 's the question."—*Phonographic Magazine*.

SENSIBLE TEACHERS.—At Council of Eng. national union of elementary teachers, Mr. Greenwood moved "that in opinion of this executive, it is desirable that the decimal system of weights and measures be introduced into this country." The motion was agreed to without debate.—Paris "Teacher."