

NEW SPELLING

Oculists comonly uze sets of "blok letters" of difrent sizes to test vision for distance. Capitals alone with some figures ar uzed. The foloing pairs ar ofn mistak en:—CG, OC, OG, BR, BE, EF, PF, YT, S5, A4, OQ, GQ, CQ, KE, KR, KB, ER, S3, I1, OD, and 2 is calld a. I and J ar much alike, and this makes mistakes especially in script. J is ofn oमित for this reason, as from Euclid's figures, etc. Now, if Ө is put in the alfabet, these pairs will be increast in number by ӨO, ӨC, ӨG, ӨQ, ӨQ. Ө, apart from O, is not distinctiv, and is without character except so far as it boros it from O. Greek has both O and Ө, but Ө is a consonant, and is fairly distinct in its capital form; its lower-case form is Ө, redily distinguisht from o. Further,

"Our entire alfabet and orthog. need recasting. [Speling does not deserv to be calld orthograpy.] In modifying present leters, or introducing new forms, simplicity and distinctnes must be so't. "The small leters show similar difrence of legibility. Out of 100 trials, d was red 87 times, s only 28 times. Order of distinctnes is: dkmqhbpu ljtvszrofnaxyeigs."

Notice that e and c ar among the last. If Ө be aded, it will be very low, and will degrade o with itself. Again, the smaller the size of type the more objectionabl—it is simply impracticabl in small sizes.

We conclude that Ө and Ө ar *very poor* alfabetic symbols. This is not givn dogmatically, but with others' and our reasons after trial since 1883. "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good;" *test* evry-thing, *adopt* the best.

OBITUARY:—SIR ISAAC PITMAN.

During the last few years many noble workers among us hav fallen.



To ELLIS, WHITNEY, FRICKE, HILL, GRAHAM, and KNUDSEN is now aded PITMAN—Sir Isaac Pitman, who was worthily knighted in 1894, and who shed luster on knight-hood, was born, 4th Jan., 1813, at Trowbridge, ten miles east of Bath, Eng., where he died, 22d Jan. last. Askt, in 1892, in what way his admirers cud best mark his reaching 80 years, as was done for FRICKE not very long before, he

anserd by teling them to form a "Speling Leeg." This was done, Prof. Max Mueller being president, himself taking the activ duties of secretary. To the last, he was Ajix in fight against the citadel of irregular speling, Hektor in defens of a beter way, tho from his years he shud rather hav been Nestor in counsel. His life was very activ, being at his desk at 6 a. m., until sumer of 1894, when dropsy of legs, apt to accompany hart diseases, wardn to moderation in work. On partial recovery, he gave up his main work, publishing a weekly shorthand jurnal and shorthand books, to his two sons, but projected "The Speler," an eight-page monthly, publisht regularly for 1895,

1896, and even Jan., 1897. It was in a revized speling with old leters only. In Sept. last, weaknes, shortnes of breth, without pain, trubid much—symptoms due to dropsy in the trunk. He kept on working, however, by a clerk's help, dictating a note to us on 18th Jan. By his wil, his remains wer cremated at Woking on 28th Jan. The electro-type cut givs his features in later years. For it we ar indebted to Mr Howard of the Phonographic Magazine, Cincinnati. Reed's biography givs fuller details of his career.

His old-letter alfabet was much like Ellis' Glosic after which it seems to hav been modeld. From 1843 he had almost daily corespondence with Ellis, the "1847 Alfabet" resultin. Ellis insistin on more than 12 vowel-symbols, Pitman unwilingly yielding to Ellis who supplid funds. From then til 1850 great expens was incurd in cutting punches, casting ful fonts of type, and equipment. The "Fonetik Nuz" was publisht weekly. When it faild, Pitman returnd to his 12-vowel-scale, that of his shorthand, the same as we employ. From it he did not depart again. In 1850 he publisht a fonetic edition of the Bible. Other books toled. Later, he made two important changes in his alfabet: 1st, difthongs ar speld out insted of having singl signs; 2nd, uzin Roman or continental values for vowels. In 1881 some change in symbols was made, leaving a 12-vowel and 24-consonant alfabet, unchanged since, in which the Niu Testament was printed in 1892.

We shal not soon hav his like. May his kindly, activ spirit animate us. Let his exampl spur us on to renewd activity and untiring zeal: then, we may say with Campbell, in "Hallowed Ground:"

"But strew his ashes to the wind
Whose sword or voice has served mankind—
And is he dead whose glorious mind
Lifts thine on high?"

To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die."

NEWS NOTES.

—An articl by Mr B. E. Smith, managing editor of the Century Dictionary, appears in the Forum for Nov. last, on the Future of Speling Reform. It shud be red and studid by all our readers. Besides blows delt existing speling, he argues that efforts of reformers shud be limited to getting improvement tantamount only to Amended Speling or therabout.

—Mr Geo. D. Broomell, Chicago, recently red a paper before the Anthropologic Society there on "Economic Aspects of Speling." Reformd speling secures economy in space, time, and expens of riting and publishing books by dropping silent leters. The child wud lern to read logically, in les time, and its drudgery wud be pleasure. Itis effort like Mr B's which bro't about genral acknoledgement by thinkers that speling needs mending. Keep the ball rolling.

—Prof. Hempl is making a study of American-English, British-English and Australian-English ar, thanks to Ellis for his long and indefatigabl labors, somewhat known, but Irish-English and American-English ar yet without careful study. Hempl's articl on the latter in the Chautauquan for Jan., 1896, is interesting. To get evidence on certn uzages, he is collecting from all over U. S. and Canada ansers to about 100 questions. Those interested shud aply to him at 95 E. University Av., Ann Arbor, Mich., for his question-circular, and send him their ansers.

CORRECTION.—The *Maitre Phonetique* (monthly, 3 francs a y'r, 11 route de Fontenai, Bourg-la-Reine, Seine, France) says:

"The HERALD says, 'the Maitre Phonetique is an actual polyglot, but in cololoquial speech only, not in its vocabulary, or standard, dictionary forms'—not quite corect. We print the forms of speech that contributors send: if any of them will uze none but 'vocabulary' forms, we shal print them, as long as our alfabet alone is uzed."