

however, a considerable number of vowels so situated, and that Worcester marks obscure, which properly receive their long sound *somewhat shortened*. Of these, *u* is the one most frequently met with. Giving these vowels their *full* long sound has the same effect that it has to make the pronouns, articles, prepositions, and conjunctions too prominent: it makes the speaker appear pedantic and self-conscious. He speaks best whose manner of speaking is least noticed. A few of the words in which this peculiar vowel appears are accurate, adulation, deputize, emolument, occupation, occupy, particular, perpendicular, and superior. *U* thus situated is sometimes obscure; in disputant and disputable, for example. See *opinion*, also *licentiate*.

#### acoustics.

All our dictionaries pronounce the *ou* of this word *ow*, while nearly the whole English-speaking world, as far as my observation goes, pronounce it *ōō*. Many persons boldly pronounce it *ōō*, knowing that the authorities are against them. *Squalor* is another word treated in like manner. I am of opinion that this manual has heretofore been in error in condemning, in common with the dictionaries, the wellnigh universal mode of pronouncing this word. If usage and not the orthoëpists make the law, then it is the duty of "The Orthoëpist" to sanction and not to condemn *a-kōōs'tiks*. *A-kows'tiks*, one of "The Orthoëpist's" critics very justly says, "is a most unlovable pronunciation."