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—If the reader wud like to see "Ajax defying lightning" he shud get the *Can. Silent Observer* for 1st June. He even "defies the allegator" after talking about a squating-hors, a Turkey carpet, spewing out "rottn apls," "ad nauseam," etc. He certnly pays a poor compliment to intelgence of his readers if he thinks them so lo mentaly as not to be able to tel bluster from courteous reasoning. He meets facts by bald asertion—mere waste of breth. "We care nothing about European records" is one of his statements. Facts ar nothing to him, a self-sufficient omniscience. His readers ar not imbecils and wil be sure to infer the weaknes of his position when he resorts to the lawyer's plan: "No case! abuse the plaintiff!" It is "talking bak," a reply, not an anser. Insted of going on so, it wud hav been more consistent with his good work to be cam, be logical, "be just and fear not."

THE DEF-DUM.—A British Comision is now considering best methods of caring for and teaching the def-dum. Prof. A. Graham Bell has been invited to giv evidence before it and saild the other day for that purpos.

"SPELING REFORM GEMS."—This is a pamphlet compiled by C. W. Larison, M.D., to be had from him at Ringos, N.J., for 15 cents. It is made up of selections, chiefly vers, exposing irregularitis of curent sp., Gregory's epistl, ritn 50 years ago, being among them. Another is the colouqu between the swels and waiter from these colums two months ago. This being in a 12-vowel alfabet, as ar al the selections, a moderately acurat representation of dialectic (Scotsh and London) speech is givn. The pamphlet wil hav great interest for evry completely converted advocat of Amended Sp. Being consistent in using signs (all differentiated, no diacritics) and wel printed, it points a beter way while giving exampls of absurditis of the old way.

NEOGRAFIE.—This is a 16-page pamphlet by Mons. Jules Ferrette, Lausanne, Switzerland, publishd there by A. Duvoisin, for a few cents. It is in a degree and kind of Amended Sp. such as that got by speling *spear, speer; mile, meil;* etc.—intended to be a first stage to complete system givn in a pamphlet by same author noticed in Feb. issue. It is in French which is certnly very legibl to one familiar with ordinary forms of Fr. words. We find *avouar*, for example, for *avoir*. Ther ar two opinions as to whether this is wise for either Fr. or Eng. As Charles Lamb is said to have remarkt about predestina'n: "A good deal can be said on both sides." Leaving the orthografic dres of the pamphlet, its materis good. We approve

many sentiments exprest, of which one translated from p. 12 wil serv as sampl: "H [Neografy] rites evry word, not necessarily as soundd in its conection [with surround-ing words] or as found actualy in colloquial speech, but as it wud be pronounced if it had the fulest (plainest?) pronuncia'n of which it may be suseptibl."

FONOGRAF.—*Science* for 25th May givs account of speech-recording aparatus of both Prof. A. Graham Bell and Edison, inventers of telefon and fonograf respectively. Both 'peard separatly in public lately in N. Y. A wax coating supersedes the tinfoil which in Edison's old fonograf receivd indentations of the recording stylus. This difers from Hensen's speech-recorder noticed by us a year ago. The American instruments reproduce the sound. We expect perfect'n of fonograf to giv a means which wil elucidate many obscure points in fonology. At present the study of fonology is beset with difficultis diminisht by simpler alfabetic notation coming into use. Wer a lot of fonologists got together, progres wud be rapid. Transmission of speech-sounds by alfabetic signs, however perfected, must always fall short of actual voice. With fonograf, sounds can be recorded, enveloped, sent where letters go, reproduced so as to be studid by being repeated over *ad libitum*, and in effect wil giv a general conference or world speech-congres and a new era wil hav dawnd, that 's all.

AMENDED SPELING IN GERMANY.

Ther has been a definit amendment in sp. made official in German. Brandt (*German Gram.*, Putnam, N. Y.), says this is equivalent to the change that is made in our orthografy by applying to it "the Five Rules" givn last month, and illustrated by a specimen over a colum long. That this was accomplisht—not talkt about, actually accomplisht and in ful blast in newspapers, books, etc.—is a rather nasty dose for our old foggy objectors of the *Observer* clas. They hav to take it thro.

This amendment was givn effect by the Prussian government issuing an official pamphlet giving word-lists of authorised spelings which all teachers wer required to folo begining 1st April, 1880. For the foloing account of how this was bro't about we ar indeted to F. A. Schwartzburg in St. Louis *Teacher*. It shows what must be the path we shal hav to tred.

"Jacob Grimm and his foloers adopted a sp. diferent from curent orthog. without attracting special notice for years. . . Their publica'ns increast; public opinion was drawn to it, and the why and wherefore of their innova'ns discust. In 1855, the educa'nal authoritis of Hanover took it up and decided on certn modifica'ns in sp., to be