

into the short or long sound commonly given in English ; or if the long or short sound at first be the one commonly heard before *r* in our language, it passes into the short or long sound commonly heard before *r* in our language. Thus the long sound of *a* in *bar* finds its true correlative in a foreign sound that we shall presently mention, and not in the first vowel of *burrow* ; and to the sound of *e* in *merry* we have already assigned with Pitman the sound of *a* in *pay* or *mate* for a correlative : but just as the *a* in *barrow* is the short sound always heard before *r* in English, so is the *a* in *bar* the long sound always heard ; and while the *e* of *merry* is the common English short *e*, uttered before any consonant, so is the *e* of *mere* the common English long *e*. Moreover, the word *sore* and its analogues actually contain the true correlative sound of the *o* in *sorrow* and its analogues. Now, there are a large number of English words in which the sound of *o* in *one* is represented either by *o* or *u* followed by two *r*'s ; and in every case where a word beginning with the same spelling can be found but having one *r* instead of two, the vowel that precedes the *r* has one particular sound—that of the *u* in *burn* : thus *worry*, with two *r*'s, becomes *word*, *world*, and *worse* with one *r* ; *hurry*, with two, becomes *hurt* with one ; *curry*, with two, *cur* and *curt* with one. It is plain, then, that in practice we English folk treat the *u* of *burn* as the long form of the *o* in *one* and *son*, or *u* in *sun* and *bun* ?

Again, that *a* following *r* or any other special letter is not always wanted to bring the *u* sound of *burn* into being is proved by the fact that the last letter of our few common nouns and numerous proper nouns that end in *a* has that sound. Thus, we do not pronounce *sofa*, *idea*, *Clara*, and *Augusta* as if spelt *so-fah*, *i-dyah*, *Clair-ah*, *August-ah*, but as though written *so-fur*, *i-dyur*, *Clair-ur*, and *August-ur*. But the truth is far more conspicuous in our neighbours' languages ; the final *e* of German words and final unaccented *e* of French ones having always this same sound. Pronounce, for example, *laufe* and *stube* in German, and *se* and *que* in French. Therefore the sound is a specific one, not a mere shading.*

Lastly, we can find no long sound that bears a resemblance to the *o* of *one* or *son*, or the *u* of *bun*, other than the *u* of *burn* ; nor, reciprocally, can we find any short sound corresponding to this save what is heard in *one*, *son*, and *bun*.

We therefore make a final appeal to your ears : is not *bun* clearly the short way of pronouncing *burn*, *ton* of pronouncing *turn*, *hut* of *hurt*, and *cut* of *curt* ?

In the speech of the Lowland Scotch both the contrast and the correlation are well displayed ; since for *world* they say *wurruld*, and for *murmur*, *murr-murr*.

(Mr. Pitman does mention the sound of *u* in *burn* in the pair of typical sentences whereby he illustrates the effect of *r* upon a foregoing

* The preceding argument was added after the essay had been read.