

his off-glides be counter-balanced and neutralized by these Pierce-Hempl on-glides. Let old monophthongs survive new-fangled parasites. *Wh* is (not *hw*, but) a voiceless *w*, rectified *w*, which appears too between a voiceless consonant (*tw*-, *qu*-, *sw*- and *pw*-) and a vowel, as in *twin*, *queen*, *swift*, *thwart*, *w* assimilating the consonant and not the vowel. Is this so? Both *o* and *e* are used for *aw*-vowels, while *o* is an *a*-vowel labialized, as in *hot*, *horn*, *boy*. 15 vowels and weak *e* are distinguished. *l* and *n* may be syllabic, but *r* and *m* not (-ism is iz'm). The *but* vowel has an *A*-symbol. In the French part 50 pages are given foreign and French proper names—good, needful, true. There is no corresponding list in English. The editors are wise to say nothing on a subject so vast and noty as the orthoepy of foreign names in English. The work is done carefully; yet slips are found: it is startling to learn that Mauritania is in N. America (for *me* in America read *f*); under *étudier* (for *etu*' *die* read *ety*' *die*) and *music* (sound *s* as *z*) misprints appear.

ORTHOEPIC NOTES.

On p. 144 you say "In *Dialect Notes*, vol. i, p. 271, Hempl appears to hear *o* for *a* in *far*," etc. Grandgent rote page 271.

An *o*-like vowel in *car*, *park*, etc., (see p. 144) is characteristic of the Scoto-Irish part of the U. S. (nearly all our South and Midland) and is a direct importation. The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat's* riter must have been from the North, as it is normal in St. Louis.

On p. 146 you say "*arm* and *on* are common pronouns with *de* same vowel in America." Strest *on* is not parallel with *hot* and has *a* (long or short) in most of the North only. In all Scoto-Irish territory, also in eastern New England, it has *o* (long or short).

Continue your good work in calling attention to movements of population from parts of the Old Country to Canada and the States.

GEORGE HEMPL.

[P. 146 was ritten with Grandgent's paper *Off and On* (published by Phonetic Sec'n of Mod. Lang. Assoc'n) in full view. On its p. 3 is found: "The case of *on* is different: in southern Pa., Maryland, central and southern Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and all the South *on* is the usual form; the West is evenly divided between *on* and *on*; the rest of the country is as good as unanimous for *on*." Again (*ibid.*, p. 2) "In eastern New England *o* is frequently rounded, whereas in the rest of the U. S. it has, with most speakers, no lip modification, being either a normal or a looser or more retracted *a*. Of the three vowels, a (*father*), *o* (*hot*), *o* (*haul*), many [most?] Americans have only two." Now, with all this in full view, and remembering that transatlantic

practice favors *o*, and that both sounds are common in America, how should *on* appear in New Spelling, 'an' or 'on'? That was the question on p. 146. *o*, so suggestively and so useful to show a shade-vowel of the *a*-family in orthoepy, is not offered as practicable in an alphabet for popular use. Settle about *on*, Analogy will settle hosts of others.—ED.]

LETTER BOX.

R.E.D.: In the language's early forms *ð* and *þ* were not given uniform sound-values. "In Icelandic, *þ* has the sound of *th* in *thin*, and *ð* that of *th* in *that*; but the Mid-English and Anglo-Saxon symbols are confused" (Skeat, *Concise Etym. Dict'y*, p. xv.) We use *ð* as now in Icelandic in which *ð* and *þ* still survive.

F.T.: *R* is the *litera canina*, dog's letter, named so because a dog's snarl is *r* exaggerated. *Snarl* (snarrl) is onomatopoeic. Growling is deeper in the throat (guttural), involving vibration of soft palate, uvula and (?) epiglottis by the dog. The human equivalent is the *r* discussed on p. 130.

THE FATEFUL WORDS.

At Studyvil, Ohio, a boy, about to graduate from common school, presented himself for a county examination. His township was one that paid tuition of graduates in any High School in the county.

He excelled in every branch but one. Where he could apply reason and analogy he was excellent, but could not remember arbitrary and senseless stuff. Such was his bent of mind.

At the test his grading was sufficient in every branch except spelling. He mist *phthisic*, *phlegm*, *wrought*, *sieve*, *receipt*, *wholly*. He failed by one mark, and so left school.—Hu Lo, Letterville, N. Y.

A SAVING OF ONE-SIXTH.

If we can save a sixth in space required for book or newspaper by spelling phonetically, we can, conversely, use type a sixth larger to fill the same space with consequent benefit to readers' eyes. All admit increased legibility in such type. Readers show a growing tendency to demand larger type in newspapers. Phonetic spelling offers a chance to publishers to meet it, and still, in effect, print as much as now. Thus, we would have books and papers at a sixth less cost, or a sixth more useful at present cost.—N. J. WERNER in *Brit. & C. Printer & Stationer*.

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