

already familiar), and a resolution has been introduced in Congress instructing the public printer to conform to them in all printing for the Government:—(1) Drop *ue* at the end of such words as *dialogue*, *prologue*, *catalogue*, etc., when the preceding vowel is short. Thus, spell *demagog*, *epilog*, *synagog*. (2) Drop final *e* in such words as *definite*, *infinite*, *favorite*, etc., when the preceding vowel is short. Thus, spell *opposit*, *preterit*, *hypocrit*, *requisit*, etc. (3) Drop *te* in words like *quartette*, *coquette*, *cigarette*, etc. Thus, spell *roset*, *epaulet*, *vedet*, *gazet*, etc. (4) Drop final *me* in words like *programme*. Thus, spell *orislam*, *gram*, etc. (5) Change *ph* to *f* in words like *phantom*, *telegraph*, *phase*, etc. Thus, spell *alfabet*, *paragraf*, *filosofy*, *fonetic*, *fotograf*, etc. (6) Substitute *e* for the diphthongs *æ* and *œ*. Thus, spell *Eolian*, *esthetic*, *subpena*, *cscofagus*, etc.

—From philology, if this be philology, to the protection of animals. The school committee of Boston has issued an order that the dissection of animals be prohibited in the public schools of the city. It was averred that at a certain school a practice was made of killing cats and dissecting their bodies to illustrate lessons in science. In future schoolmasters will have to content themselves with the excellent diagrams which are to be had from most scholastic publishers.

—The great brick tunnel on the American side at Niagara is about finished. It is nearly a mile and a quarter long, and was built through the solid rock. The water of Niagara river will be conducted to four great turbine wheels in a row; others will be added. A village has already been started along the river margin, and dozens of buildings and factories are going up, with arrangements for sewerage, grading and lighting the district. The company will be ready to furnish power by the first of March or before, at very low rates as compared with steam. Much of the power developed here will be converted into electrical energy for distribution at remote points.

### Literature, Historical Notes, etc.

#### A TEACHER'S SOLILOQUY.

Dr. Rice has written a book that is anything but a panegyric on the public schools of our American cities. It is natural to want to defend the institution of which one is a part. What will be the best thing to say in controversion of what he and a host of other carping critics have published? The leading accusation against our city schools is that they are mechanical. Are they? And if so, why are they mechanical? Is *my* work,