

Presnt absurd contradictions in speling ar not waranted by either history or reason. Many spelings wer quite arbitrary, as final e in *have, live, solve, axe*. He traced historically how this and other anomalies entered the language, including *comfort, money, donkey*, insted of cumfort, muney, dunkey. He was particularly scornful of English peopl for insisting on u in *labour, colour, etc.*, and oposing its omision as an American inovation. Such words wer speld without u before Columbus was born.

He scoft at objectors as slaves of an idle habit of judging by eye insted of by ear. A word's only tru speling was what most reasonably gave its sound. Base all reform on the corect pronunciation of Latin vowels. In Chaucer's time Latin was speld as pronounced in Italy, and English was then speld so too. Return to this shud be the first step in reform.

[From a fuller report in *Athenæum*, 12 May.]

For practical purposes, all speling reform is imposibl thru unintelligent hostile action by the pres due to limited number of jurnalists acquainted with fonetics—to be remedid by more general noledge of fonetics. Markt advance wud likely result from adoption in scools of Roman pronunciation of Latin. This wud at once iluminate our perception of ritn symbols and enable us to see their tru historic meaning. Shud sp. ref'm be first efected in America, it may be an advantage since the language's history is nōn more widely there. The president of an American university recently told Prof. Skeat with emfasis and truth: "In our universities English takes first place." This fact an Englishman can hardly understand.

FOR CONVENTIONAL SELECTION.

Mr Ben (n Pitman, in view of a posibl convention, says (*Phonog'c Mag.*, March) an intelligint laity shud discuss:

- 1) Ar ch (in *chair, chant, etch*) and j (in *jeer, jaunt, edge*) simpl or compound, tf, dj?
- 2) Is u (in *mule, union, Utah*) yu or iu?
- 3) Ar a (in *mate, ale, fade*) and o (in *old, four, Rome*) simpl or difthongal?
- 4) Is *when* hwen or wēn?
- 5) Is o (in *on, not, opposite*) identical with but briefer than the vowel in *all, awning, naught*? Millions of Americans, more especially in Western States, make this o a very near approach tu a.
- 6) Ar the elements of i (in *eye, isle, time*) ai, ei, oi, or ai? *The Century* dictionary and other authorities uze ai.

These points and many like them hav been discust often in these pages. Free and ful discussion seems a necessity preliminary to selectiv setlment, as conventions ar ever hurrid. Of this ther is need just now, becaus the *Chicago Tribune*, a friend while Hon. Jos. Medill livd, urges diversity in orthoepy as insuperabl.

In 3) eⁱ and o^u ar the difthongs ment.

In America, o in a large clas of words of which *not* is type not only "approaches" but coincides with a (in *art, artistic, bazuar*). Consider 'a' in the abstract, apart from quantity (any of the three elements of strength mentioend on p. 163), and free from atractiv influences (often misleading) of surrounding consonants in key-words. For the a-family, their historical development is givn in the first paragraf of Wright's *Dialect Dict.* In the very first line he says: "*Apart from the influence of neighboring sounds, the uzual development*" is so and so. (Italics ar ours).

On the contrary, in considering 1), the *mutual* attraction of two adjacent sounds must be rememberd. Therin, in dy, d is attracted bak by y, and y is drawn forward by d into the j-position (which lies close between d and y). Then we hav j = dj. Similarly, ch = tf. Tho they ar compound in Orthoepy, yet it is wise to treat them as simpl in Orthografy.

OTHER COUNSEL.

Mr Carnegie's 300 words shud be acompanied by a definit alfabet [to no what wordforms to work toard]. Else, who wil adopt the 300 and feel sure to stay?

Uze c for ch, x for sh or zh, as Mr Wilcox suggests on p. 163. Alredy x is uzed so in Portuguese and Excelsioro. As to "Britons who cry no new letters," our position is rather: *As few as posibl*. Exampl, o is a compound, a difthong (o^u). For it ou ansers admirably. Why then hav a new letter? At most, two or three new letters [differentials?] wil suffice. Hevn spare us the ugly forms a, e, a, o, y. For u, the only one necessary, Mr Brown, of West Hartlepool, designs a prettier form. Wellington, Eng. SIDNEY E. BOND.

From Wellington, N. Z., Mr R. C. Harding rites (*Jwr. O. & O.*, May) that y is so excelent that it meets with almost universal acceptance. It is a comon sound in South-Sea tungs wherin it is often initial. Misionaries therin put old letters to new and strange uses (as g for y, b for mb, c for p), and this produces confusion. He wud accept c for ch but for one weighty reason, tradition. . . . old asociations cling.

In New Speling.]

PROGRESSIV DEVELOPMENT.

Not enjoinment, and not soro,
Iz aur destind end or wē,
Bat tu act, ðat ich tu-moro
Faind as farðar ðan tu-da.

THE HERALD is publist (with misi nary object) in Jan., April, July, Oct., at 25 Bellevue av., Toronto, Canada. SUBSCRIBE AND DISTRIBUTE in letters, in scools, privatly in a hunderd ways; 8 copies to one adress, 25 cents a year in advance.