

PHONOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, J.B. Howard editor, Phonog. Institute, Cincinnati, O., 288 pages small quarto, cloth \$2.50, 1887.

PHONOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, *ibidem*, 1888.

These beautiful, bound volumes exhibit Fonography, Ben Pitman system, and do it wel. To us they ar of much interest from frequent articles on Amendment of Speling. Beside precept, ther is, what is beter, ex-ampl thruout of *ar, catalog, definit, gará, gio, huz, infinit, tho, thru, wisht*. In other articles we find the 5 Rules applied; in stil others, the linguists' clumsy 24 Rules. All is wel done, with proof carefully red. On p. 156 of vol. for '87, Dr Roosa, the N. Y. oculist and aurist, has his name givn as Rüs'a. Roz'a is right, as we had frequent opportunity to no. This is used to exemplify how shorthand, if on a fonetic basis as ar all modern ones, is constant dril in orthoepy to all practisers of it with ears to hear. Unfortunately, ther is a large clas of bred-and-buter fonografers to whom all this is as "perls to swine." For each month is sampl with 3 diferentiated forms, a, e, u, which by use of makron, as ū, ē, ū, givs an alfabetic dres with many merits but enuf faults to leav room for improvement. The makron disfigures; it is beter to distinguish close *i* and *e* by separat characters. For the former, *ɛ* fills the bil beter than a strokt *i*, and so is used provisionaly til a stil beter *i* shape appears; for the later, *u* is a good *e* shape. They dont conflict with the linguists' dicta, and correspond beter with March's *A B C Book* than the alfabet of the *Magazine*: yet it specially comends the *A B C Book* notwithstanding. Before the *Magazine* was born, we argued this: def, very def, ar those that wont hear! In the *Mag.* specimens, ai, au, and ei, ar used for the difthongs, and that consistently. Tho 'yu' begins sylabls, 'iu' mostly is used in mid-sylabl. Dh is for ð; th, θ; ng, ɣ. Articls in this dres, if strictly consistent, with proof carefully red (room for improvement here) furnish material for studying American pronunciation. We shal refer to it and use it as such. The editor shud tel us his standard; if he departs from it, how far and in what directions? The jurnal appears as a monthly at \$1.50 a year. The issues for 1889 ar abrest of their predecessors.

### THE SHORTHAND SOCIETY.

Mr Stanbury's paper before Can. Sh. Soc. on 11th inst. delt with his subject, Am. Sp. ABINITIO. From origin of speech and dispersion of tungs he sketsht hieroglific and alfabetic riting with its diferent forms manifested by Semitic and Arian nations to advent of Anglo-Saxon in Britan, the comingling of Norman-French, and later changes. He concluded thus:—

"Because we hav extracted a useful word from a foren tung, must we necessarily prosery it in its original form and hav it folo foren style in variation and inflection, also in speling such changes. 'While in Rome, do as the Romans.' So, when foren words come into our language, let them conform to our words. Because a French farmer is industrius, and desirabl as an imigrant, shal we allow him to bring his system of land-division and render himself a nuisance b runing his farm of 5 feet wide and 2 miles long thru the country? Why persistently endeavor to perpetuate education mistakes and shortcomings in bygon centuries? This is an age of reform. As exponents of sound presentation, we shud keep pace with the age. It wud be a gain to our Society, our country, and mankind. We need not be abasht because of our numbers: minoritis ar generally right and rule is the end. Great changes come sloy; and Sp. Reform, to be thoro, mu t be no exception. By advocacy of it, our Societ will be benefited decidely by elevation of tone, and wide-reaching influence. In Canada, we hav a yung nation rapidly taking place as a leading exponent of progresstho't and action."

A comitee was appointed to further the object by compiling a list of those prefered of two or more spelings givn by dictionaris Messrs. Stanbury, Cator, Dunlop, Gurnett, and Secretary Perry ar the comitee.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR, If, as stated in yur last issue, in 'liturgic' pronuncia'n (which I agree with yu is what must form our standard) first and secnd vowels in *London, cumbrous, succumb*, ar identical in quality, and difer in stress alone, ar they not all equivalent in quality (even in liturgic pion.) to *a* in *ocean, physician, above, Canada, America*, to *o* in *above*, to *e* in *silent, statement*, (also represented in varius othe rways); and shud not all be represented by same sign? Ar not 2d and 3d vowels in *Canada* always diferent from 1st? I speak of complete and definitiv fonetic alfabet, not a transi<sup>onal</sup> one calculated as yur own expedients no doubt ar to propitiate prejudice in favor of present symbols. M.

[U in either sylabl of *succumb* has same quality as *o* in *above*, and difers from evry other vowel in words specified: see Murray *et al.* Ellis appears to teach that *v* and *ə* difer in quantity alone.—Ed.]

### TR AND TSII.

SIR.—The main difference between our *voter* and French *voire* is that in French *tr* forms a consonant-difthong, like *tr* in *try, true, etc.*; while in our *better, voter, matter, etc.*, *t* and *r* dont form a consonant difthong but ar spoken separatly. Try pronouncimg *better* without any vowel between *t* and *r*, and see if yu dont get precisely the same sound as when yu pronounce *better* ordinarily, or sufficiently near to anser all practical purposes. It seems unwise to go to that extreme nicety in pronuncia'n comon among professional elocutionists; for ordinary purposes deal with clear, plain sounds alone, that evry ear can readily distinguish.

I dont like yur plan of crowding out familiar *ch* and substituting *tsii*. To my ears they ar clearly and radically diferent. Chicago, Ill. D. KIMBALL.