

Mrs E. B. Burz writes from New York: "Rules A and B are excellent, concise and easily remembered and devoid of rigidity, which I deem a very important feature. The rigidity of the 24 Joint Rules and consequent tho't requisite to apply them is my objection to them. . . I wud be glad if yu wud use markt *u* (ü) to distinguish the vowel in *put* from that in *but*. Yur preference for Roman values wil caus yu to demur probably. Truly I am delighted with yur work in its present direction and with yu think we shud hav a jurnal devoted to Revision of Speling apart from the shorthand magazines and coming ofner than the bulletins of S.R.A. Yur Dec. number embodis and recomends principls that I urged on S.R.A. at its inception, and hav been urging ever since." [We hav receivd like favorabl opinions from several quarters. Shal Rules A and B be adopted? Speak now or ever after hold yur peace. This is the first time of asking. — Ed.]

**RULES A & B vs. 24 JOINT RULES.** — It is interesting to compare orthograpy as givn by folowing A and B with that by the 24 of p. 31. Oportunity is givn by examining *M*'s letr. Result: difference in two words only—above (*abuv*) and usualy (*uzualy*). *A* and *B* do not include 6th, 13th and latr haf of 20th. They go beyond the 24 in some respects especially folowing a *sound* principl stated by Archbishop Trench: "The intention of the ritn word, the end whereto it is a mean, is by aid of signs agreed on beforehand to represent to the eye as accurately as posibl the spoken word." Let us restate them:—

- A. OMIT evry useles letr.  
 B. CHANGE { *d*, *ph*, *gh*  
 if sounded so { to *t*, *f*, *f*.

**TWO QUESTIONS** now pres most urgently for ansr: 1. What vowels shal hav alfabetric representation? 2. Which five shal hav *a e i o u* assignd to them? To the first we hav helpt contribute an ansr. The ansr to the second is coming and from widly diferent quarters of the world. Let us poses our souls in peace—"the mil of the gods grinds slowly" but it is exceeding sure.

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**ICELAND** has a language almost unchanged for over a thousand years. It was establishd as a kingdom in 874. Its isolated position has preservd its language which is that comon tung of the 8th to the 10th century from which the Scandinavian tungs Danish, Swedish or Norwegian hav sprung, while Icelandic is almost its continuation to our day. Danish incursions into England, Scotland and Ireland ar matr of history and hav left an impres on our tung of much interest. In Icelandic, we hear almost the very tones the invaders spoke. Icelandic is aproximately fonetic in its printed representation, as all tungs wer originally in their ritn forms. In cours of time Icelandic has drifted a litl from the comparativly fonetic. English has drifted very much more. In Iceland ther is a movement to correct this gradual deviation, and approximate the fonetic more closely.

**ORTHODOX SPELING.**—Our Montreal correspondent "preferd that his communication be put in orthodox speling." That's just what we 'v done! Curent Speling as revised by leading filologic scolars of the English speaking world working concurrently and conjointly to that end is the most orthodox speling that we no of. Such Revised Speling is got by folowing 24 Rules givn p. 31. How these rules wer reacht we alrely explaind p. 21 *et seq.* We cud not think of treating *M* so shabily and maring the consistency of our pages by using the curent speling with all its etymologic errors, pedantic mistakes and outrageous inconsistencies.

**A, AN, THE.**—In fonetic specimens in *Videt* as well as in most papers advocating the reform 'a' is used for the indefinit articl in same form and sound as in 'an', proper, for a is only contraction for an by dropping *n*, and shud hav same sound as in an. *G* (as in *ale*) is regarded as improper for the litl word [as is also 'a.]. 'The' is also made short by authority of Webster to giv a vowel between *i* in *this* and *u* in *thus* which is *e* in *then*. As both these articls when pronouncet with emfasis ar utrd with *a* and *e* they may yet on determination criticlly be so speld uniformly.—*Videt*, *Valparaiso, Ind.*