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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELING.

3D YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, Feb., 1887.

N^R 22

STRES iz the chaf determinant in awentiti. Uther elements ar inflecshun, emfasis, etc. Acsnt iz silabl-stres; emfasis iz wurd-stres. Hwot emfasis iz in a sentns, acsut iz in a wurd. Both emfasis and inflecshun belong tu Elocushun; hwich iz beyond our provins, Orthoepi. Acsnt belongz tu the latr. Cwontiti veriz continyuali in elocushun, depending on emoshun ov the speker, the mening, etc.; ewentiti in orthoepi (a wurd being considerd not az in a sentus, but isoleted) iz comparativli yuniform. Let shep denot cweliti: a sistem ov denoting cwentiti iz neseseri. Stres ev acsnt felz on the hol silable instead ov the vouel alon. The acsnt mark wil sho the silabl reseving chef stres, az win'do, er'tho dex. If stres be so far remuvd that a vouel lake cweliti it iz a fricativ neiz, without vocaliti. Denot this bî 'a', az doc'tar, bet'ar. Wε me ned menz tu denot ewentiti with mor acurasi. Tu du so, put "after strong stres, put": after stronger stres, lev normal stres unmarkt, and subnemal stres can be shon bî '-', a shortnd form for '-', mînus. Az, record, re-cord, cum pan-i, cum-pan yun, con-sid er e shen, rep:yu te shun, etc. Com en marks on li ar neded. We comend other plan tu favor.

"Til, bai ecsperiens tot, dhi maind shal lurn
Dhat, net tu no at larj ev thingz remot
Frem yus, ebsciur and sutl; but tu no
Dhat hwich befor us laiz in deli laif,
Iz dhi praim wizdum."

Miltn.

[—]Our pajez hav furnisht spesimenz in fiv diferent simbolz for difthongal i, namli, ī, î, ai, į, i. Hwich dezervz adopshun? In lîk maner, the vouel in 'ooze' haz ben exemplifid with u, u, u, u, u, u, u, and ų iz yuzd besîdz. Agen, hwich shud be chozn?

[—]Mr L. Lyon, Conneaut, Ohîo, preferz tu yuz sound-simbolz with sertn valyuz, ilustrated in:—.

KEY: a a a e e i î e o o u u u az in art at alo ell cel it I or ox no up put do

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THE LONDON "O."

The cosmopolitan vowel sound herd in our word no, as pronounst in America and in most parts of the British Isles, is pronounst as a difthong in London and some other adjacent districts in Suthern England. They pronounce it very nearly the same as we do the word now. Ther is this difference, however: In now, the two parts of ow hav about equal stres and quantity; in the London o the two parts hav diferent quantity, the first having stres and a quantity greater than the second. The London o is a trochee, or trochaic difthong. Punch, the great comic jurnal, has recently used its powerful voice to help chek this departure from the more general pronunciation. In its issue for 18th Dec. last is to be found a large cut of an Italian singer (Signor Mossic) singingas if in public, with piano acompaniment. He has lernd to pronounce o in London fashn, that is, as if it wer ow. Punch givs: "

. Signor Mossini,—(Singing):
"Ow, my Love! I loved her sow!
My Love that loved me years agow!"

It may be askt, how does the Londoner distinguish no and now. Anser: He pronounces now as tho it wer nau, where 'a' sounds as in at and 'u' as in put, that is ow is changed into another difthong, which is again a trochaic difthong, or one having stres on its first part. The New Englander, or "Yankee" has a like mispronunciation. His word cow is comonly givn as the exemplary word. It difers from the London difthong in two respects: 1st, the two parts have equal stres; 2d, they are givn the nasal twang, similar tu but much les than French nasalization. The tru English ow is neither the London nor the Yankee form.

When o ocurs before r, the Londoner first changes o to the sound aw, and then drops the r. Ful exampl of coloquial Londonese can be found in Sweet's Elementarbuch des Gesprochenen English, which givs, not distinct English, such as shud be and is used in reading the Services of the Episcopalian Church, but the London dialect as givn coloquialy without faults comonly calld Cokny.

— Those interested in French wil find a good acount of "The French language in Louisiana and the Negro-French Dialect," in a paper by Prof. Fortier in Proceedings of Mod. Lang. Assoc'n of America for 1885.

LITERATURE.

ENGLISH LINE-WRITING: A new, simpl, and exact system of Fonetics. By A. Melvil Bell. Publisht by E. S. Werner, 48 University Place, N.Y., pp. 52, 12mo., paper; price, 60 cents.

Any work by Mr. A. M. Bell, the author of Visibl Speech shud comand atention. Until recently he was a resident of Tutelo Heights, near brantford, Ont., and is the father of Mr. A. Graham Bell, of telefon fame. He now resides in Washington, and this is his most recent work. All his work is put on the basis of observed vocal fysiology—a correct one. He does not make any atempt to folo Roman letrs, but takes strokes like those in shorthand for the consonants, and indicates vowels by dashes light or hevy. The lines ar not arbitrary parts of the strait line and circl as ar those of shorthand, but ar indicativ where and how the sound is formd. He says:

"The line caracters wil be found to hav important advantages over ordinary letrs—however specialized the latr may be by discritic signs, etc.—not only in simplicity of form and freedom from ambiguity, but in the visibl relations of the elements which constitute line-writing a perfect picture of utorance."

Posibly a holly new alfabet may be the betr way to study speech-sounds and their relations as they ar dissociated from old orthografic relations: yet we believ that for all popular and educational purposes at least the Roman letrs must be taken. For these purposes we agree with him, that great acuracy of representation is not requisit, however desirabl it is for sientific study: He says, p. 4:

"We understand speakers from diferent sections of our cuntry, notwithstaninds numerus unlikeness in pronunciation, and we interpret the broken English of a forener, altho he uses very diferent elementary sounds from our own; so, too, we hear varius shades of ah-sound, awsound, o-sound, and oo-sound interchanged, in dialects, and among individuals, without afecting intelligibility: Therefore an initiatory alfabet may omit many nicer elementary distinctions."

He discriminates nineteen distinctions of vowel sound, exclusiv of difthongs. Several of these 19 necesarily mark quantitativ diferences only. Omiting such, the number is redust to about twelv. It is betr to indicate quality by the shape of a vowel. Quantity is such a variabl, depending on emotion. emfasis, accent, surounding letrs, condition of the speaker's throat and helth that we can but giv an aproximat to it. This is suficiently denoted by the accent mark. The atempt is made by Bell to giv the quantity of vowels in all unaccented sylabls. This trying to indicate both quantity and quality by shape makes matrs very complex. The word indivisibility has sevn sylabls; the vowel in each has the same quality, but probably no two hav the same quantity. If we no where the accent is, we hav the best guide to the latr. Stil, as the vowels in unaccented sylabls is a vext and vexing question, the teachings of this master in the sience of speech-sounds shud hav close atention. He has herein givn his solution of this vext question. Taking it altogether, we stil prefer to adhere to the three foloing planks in our platform:

1. Take the Roman alfabet as a basis.

2. Indicate quality by shape.

3. Indicate quantity by accent mark, etc. On pages 50 and 51, eight English caracteristics ar specified. By these we understand eight diferences between English and American usage. A few misprints shud be corrected in next edition.

MUSIC IN SPEECH.

This was the title of a lecture recently delivered in Richmond Hall, Toronto, by Mr. M. L. Rous. Mr. W. H. Vander-Smissen, M.A., Librarian at University Colege and tutor in German there, ocupied the chair. Mr. R. finds that 8 pairs of vowels and 5 difthongs represent all the vowel sounds in English, French, German and Italian. He has publisht it in pamflet The pamflet treats his pairing of form. vowels only. It was fully notist in Herald for Feb. '86. He considerd that the vowels: in keen, age, burn, arm, dawn, note and boom form a desending scale; thus, E. a, v, a, e. He showd that th, sh, and zh, wer formd by blending t, s and z respectivly with aspiration, so that the compounds the sh. and zh wer tru, fonologicaly as wel as orthograficaly. Also as t: d:: th: dh, where dh represented the aspirated d or the first sound in then. I is composed of dzh, and ch is tsh. The continental r is our r aspirated, and Irish l is our l aspirated. Irish I is herd when a nativ of Ireland uters the words milk, hill, &c. He then compared the consonants with the varius musical instruments. The analogy is striking in many respects. His analysis of the consonants tends to make the subject more ful, yet tends to simplification. The interested reader wil find a synopsis of his analysis of consonants and analogy with musical instruments givn in the curent Vol., p. 92, of Proceedings of Canadian Institute.

The chairman objected to the German word sold being pronounst with o as in no, it had aproximatly the same sound as our word doll which shud not be pronounst dawl like drawl, altho diference of vowels in doll and shawl or fall was quantitativ only, and not qualitativ. The German motto Gott mit uns, he wud pronounce Get mit unz. German sold was 'seld,' not 'söld.' [This agrees exactly with doctrin taut in Herald for '86, p. 67.] He had observed that Punch had recently calld atention to some of the faults of London pronunciation, especialy sounding tape like type, and I like oi. He believed "the best" English was not that of

London. To his ear the speech of Prof. Goldwin Smith was model. He speaks Oxford English--not the Oxford of to-day, but that of 25 or 30 years ago. The present Oxford speech has degenerated, altho not to the same degree as Londonese.

Dr. Hamilton acreed with the last speaker. He too hadist that Punch, who was comonly RIGHT, had turnd its wepns against certan degenerativ changes going on in our language as spoken in Eng. (chiefly about London, altho Sweet says "Suthern England.") The change of cosmopolitan o as in no, to difthongal ow, objected to by Punch, and also its change to aw before a dropt r. as well as droping rs generaly, wer example of degeneration. Such speakers pronounst Port Hope as if rith Pawt Hown. His own studis had been somewhat in the same line as the lecturer's but he cud find but 12 vowels and 3 difthongs in English. The vowels if aranged as to their natural pitch wud correspond to the sevn white and five blak keys in the octave of an organ. The twelv, in order from high to lo, wer thoz in eel, ill, ale, ell, at, art, ox, or, up, no, put, do. Of these, eel, ale, at, art. or, no, do, wer represented by the white keys. The rest wer minor vowels, corresponding to blak keys, and wer ill, ell, ox. up, put. The order of the scale is E, i, a, e, a, a, 0, 0, v, o, u, u. Taking major vowels only, we had E, a, a, a, e, o, u. The Key E corresponds to E.

THE LONDON DIALECT, but mostly in its Cokney aspects, has certain peculiaritis hapily and forciby exemplified in Punch for 1st Jan. '87. These peculiaritis ar: 1st, the pronunciation of a, as in ale, like i in isle; 2d, i in isle is mispronounst as tho it wer oi in oil. Punch givs a cut representing a customer conversing with a shopman across the latr's counter. It is heded "Poor Lett A." "Do you sell Type?"—"Type, sir? No, sir, this is an ironmonger's. You'll find Type at the Linendryper's over the w'y." I don't mean Tape, man; Type, for printing." "Oh, Toype, yer mean. I beg your pardon, sir. You'll find Toype at the Toype-founder's."

— How great then must be the dificulty for a beginer in reading! For, with him, taking in the tho't thru word-recognition must be the predominant proces; while the aim of giving out the tho't is but feebly present in his proces of taking in the tho't? He has to conect (in the alfabet method) the form of the letr with its name, its name with its proper sound, the printed word with the spoken word, the spoken word with the idea with other ideas similarly aquired. Is it any wonder that these complex relations tax his mental capabilitis to the utmost, and leav but litt power for the reproduction of tho't so laboriusly aquired?— DR. McLellan in Canada Educational Monthly.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMPARISON OF SCHEMES.

Is it not posibl to hav a comparison of schemes of Amended Speling on the foloing plan: Select a pasage suitabl in length and otherwise as a test. Let each author submit the pasage spelt in acordans with his own scheme, all to be printed side by side, each author to bear his own share of expens.

The Eng. S. R. A. has adopted a number of general principls in acordans with which New Speling shud be constructed. In substance they wer. A symbol for evry sound, the New Sp. to be easy to Print. Teach, Rite and Read by present Readers. These conditions wer paramount. Other considerations wer relegated to a subordinat position. Among the latr may be mentiond: Analogis of Foren Languages, similar sounds to hav similar shape, difthongs to be represented by their elements, &c., &c.

Nobody objects to new letrs on principl, but evrybody feels the practical dificultis encounterd in their introduction. Ther is but one printing office in Eng. where new letrs can be had, and the variety of fonts is limited. If I wish to ilustrate Sp. by Sound in a newspaper it canot be done with new letrs. An articl with present letrs can be sent across the Atlantic and printed with

acuracy in type of any size.

My good frend. Mr. Knudsen, of S. Norwalk, Conn., is so ernest, so able, and so persevering that I wud be glad to come to nearer acord with him. A great obstacl wnd be removed if we got rid of the idea that similar vowel sounds shud hav symbols of similar shape, as we have got rid of that idea as regards consonants. Ch and i represent sounds which pair; but where is the resemblance in shape?

E. Jones.

Liverpool, Eng.

[The Jurnal of Amer. Orthocpy, publisht monthly at Ringos, N.J., \$1 a year, wil instrate schemes during the year, under Mr. Jones' supervision. Those interested shud subscribe.—ED.]

VOWEL PAIRS.

SIR,—In yur last, yu say that "two vowels ar exact pairs when they difer in quantity only, and not in quality," and that in this sens ther ar no exact pairs. I maintain that several vowels do pair so nearly at least that a comon ear canot detect the slightest diference except in quantity. If vowels difer in quantity only, a prolongation of the short vowel produces the corresponding long. Yu admit that this is almost (I say holly) the case with ell and ale and also with the vowels in foot and food. Yu surely do not ask us to believ it is the same with ill and eel, or with

those in not and father, altho yu contrive to pair these vowels in some way to me uninteligibl. The relationship apears to me perfect in odd and awed; also in the vowels in at and father.

JOHN WATSON.

Catonsville, Md.

[Quantity has nothing to do with vowels pairing. They pair aproximatly, not exactly, and betr the les they difer in quality. quality, the twelv vowels ar as distinct to our ear as twelv men in a jury box ar to our eye-tho related to one another, stil individualized. The first v. in fodder aproximates that in father more closely than that in former, and makes the closest pair of all. ranging them in order of proximity, they ar fodder and father; 2, full and fool; 3, fill and feel; 4. fell and fail. The other vowels do not aproximate near enuf to deserv to be paird, Who wud claim note and nut as a good pair? Manifestly, Mr. W. does not pronounce odd and father as we do. With this we leav it to our readers.—ED.]

VOWEL PAIRS-DIFTHONGS.

Sir,—I tho't it understood by evrybody that aranging the twelv vowel scale in six pairs was not strictly tru, but a stenografic convenience. The six short vowels ar certanly not always mates for the six long—not of the same quality.

As to difthongs, I wud, for sake of peace and unity, provide singl signs for those who canot determin the [so-calld] elements of difthongs. Then evry man cud spel acording to his convictions. Yu wud rite hous, and I, haus (house.) Pitman wud spel his name Eizak; I wud spel it Aizak.

Owego, N.Y.

AN ENLARGED ALFABET.

Sir,—I believ that a jurnal advocating an enlarged alfabet, and doing its best to get a good one cud be sustaind in time. Hafway alfabets wil never succeed, and never o't to succeed. Twelv vowels, four glide vowels and twenty-six consonants wil make a good alfabet, leaving out shade vowels as holly unnecesary. Use the same vowel sign in fame and fare; use e in let and earth,

JOEL MYERS.

J. H. KIDDER.

Oberlin, Ohio.

—Dr. W. Vietor, Prof. of English Filology in University of Marburg, Prussia, rote us that he wud start in April a new periodical devoted to Fonetics, or the Sience of Speech sounds. Ther wil be three or four parts issue yearly. The parts wil hav 70 or 80 pages each. We hav received the second edition (1887) of his Elmente der Phonetik and shal notice it shortly.