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The

Phonetic Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND REVISED SPELLING.

2ND YER.

PORT HOPE, CANADA, NOV., 1886.

N^R. 19.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

It is often a question how to spell terms in geography with the old alphabet. This is largely due to our letters having no settled value. When such a term is spelled, it is a second and greater difficulty, due to the same cause, how to pronounce it. Spelling names in India has long been a difficulty—one putting a name one way, another, a different way, and both puzzle pronouncers. The Indian Society have been compelled to adopt a system for the names of India.—Hence, the following, as reported in the *Alphænum* is important. It applies to geographical names generally.

The Council of the Royal Geographical Society of England have adopted the following rules for such geographical names as are not, in the countries to which they belong, written in Roman characters. These rules are identical with those adopted for the Admiralty charts, and will henceforth be used in publications of the Society:

1. No change will be made in the orthography of foreign names in countries which use Roman letters; thus, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, etc., names will be spelled as by the respective nations.

2. Neither will any change be made in spelling such names in languages which are not written in Roman characters as have become by long usage familiar to English readers: thus *Calcutta, Cutch, Celebes, Mecca*, etc., will retain present form.

3. The true sound of the word as locally pronounced will be taken as the basis of the spelling.

4. An approximation, however, to the sound is alone aimed at. A system which would attempt to represent the more delicate inflections of sound and accent would be so complicated as only to defeat itself.

5. The broad features of a system for that VOWELS are pronounced AS IN *ILLUSTRATIONS AND CONSONANTS AS IN ENGLISH*.

6. One accent only is used—the acute—to denote the syllable on which stress is laid.

7. Every letter is pronounced. When two vowels come together, each one is sounded, though the result, when spoken quickly, is sometimes scarcely to be distinguished from a single sound, as *ai, au, ei*.

8. Indian names are accepted as spelled in *Hunter's Gazetteer*.

The fact that such a system should deliberately adopt Italian values for vowels in preference to their own is to us striking—especially as they adhere to their own consonantal values. A similar result has been reached in Japan. See pages 54 and 67. We believe the adoption of Italian values is unavoidable. German values are

but slightly different from Italian, yet would accord a little better with our customary use of letters. The 4th paragraph above is worthy of attentive observation.

ASSIMILATION & COALESCENCE.

The assimilation of two sounds in speech is quite common. Eufony requires it. A corresponding assimilation is well established in current orthography. Thus, *sub* changes to *sup* before *p*, as in *supposition*, *ad*, to *as* as in *assent*; *ob* to *op*, as in *opposition*; and so on. Eufony steps in again, and refuses to pronounce both letters, human nature exclaiming with the witches in *Macbeth* against this

"Dubl, dubl toil and trub!"

The question as naturally arises: Why not let the two letters coalesce as the two sounds have coalesced? When two houses adjoin, a common wall is deemed enough. We believe that where one house has been put up before the other the law compels the owner of the latter to pay the other owner half the value of the common wall—building two being wasteful and useless. Why not suppress the useless letter? and let the principle of coalescence have free play and account for the letter dropped. In earlier stages of our tongue it was quite common to find one of the two suppressed. This we believe to be the reason for the 11th of Filologic Societies' Joint Rules (given page 31.) and which warrants pretty general omission of one of double letters. *Ferguson* for *Ferguson* is an illustration of a word in which an *s* has coalesced. May the number of such be increased.

So much for omitting one of double letters. Omitting one of two similar letters already occurs in old spelling although both are sounded. as *eighth* instead of *eightth* for 8th. If we do so where it is sounded, surely we may do so when it is silent.

—Mr Isaac Fry, postmaster at Cayuga, Ont., sends the *Toronto Globe* a list of 112 ways of spelling Cayuga every one of which had been received at his office.

WUN LANGWEJ AND WUN SPECH

—This iz the onli grat cuntri hwich haz but wun langwej. In England, the Yorkshirman canot tok with the man from Cernwel. The pezat ov the Ligurian Apentniz drivz hiz gots hom at evening ovr hilz that luk down on six provinsez, nethr ov huz dialechts he can spk er comprehend. The Yuropean ralwez tak the traveler hwar he herz a scor ov dialects in a singl da. Hwil her, from forests ov Man tu the gloing savanaz ov the Gret Gulf and far tu the Pasific cost, ther ar a hundred resez, but ther iz onli wun langwej.—Deli papr.

Sound a e e i i e o o u u
az in art at als ell eel it l or ox no up put do

The above is in Scol orthograpy whose limits wer givn p. 61, but with e and i for the vowels in *he* and *high*. It is not open to criticism as to consonants. It is a fair representation of an ideal, which might be stil betr represented typografic sly. It may be said to be the latest alfabet of Mr E. Longly, which many favor, with Roman (German?) vowel valyus and other letrs to harmonize and make a 12 vowel alfabet. Shal we farther illustrate and try it during 1887? A and u ar used in exact harmony with other nations; and ther is no discord as to e, i, or o an im portan matr. It is tru that l, is a more natural capital for i or j than F which consorts best with strokt z. In other ways the latr is preferd by some: the *Journal of American Orthoepey* says:—

I is more redily distinguisht than j from i in both print and script and is more beutiful. It requires one les movement and it is more easily made with the pen, and graces the line betr. It is already in use and almost all who have ever used a dictionary ar aquainted with it. Hence we ar introduoing no new letr, a thing important at this stage.

Good!—One of the publications of the Eng. S. R. A. contains the foloing:—

Some of the new-letr types here used ar imperfect makeshifts. Critical recipients of this paper may ariet in remedying such meccanical defect by sending to the secretary moderat subscriptions specialy for the "Type Fund".

—In the 16th and erly part of the 17th century *jea'ousy* was spelt *ielovsie*, also *iealovsie*. This was before *j* came in use as a new letr and while *v* and *u* wer stil used indiscriminaty—at any rate *v* was not restricted to its consonant power as now. It wud hav been les of an inovation had our forefathers changed once or all to "jelusi" which is simpl and filosofic.

—Ther is a scheme afoot to establish in Ontario a Modern Language Association. It is to be wisht that it may be accomplishd and that it wil be put on a scientifi basis. The system of studying and teaching modern languages as pursued in this cuntry is reched and unsatisfactory. Mr Sweet has wel said:—

If our present reched system of studying modern languages is ever to be reformd, it must be on the basis of a preliminary training in general fonetiez, which wud at the same time lay foundation for a thoro practical study of the pronunciation and elocution of our own language—subjects totaly ignored in our present education.

Sp. in 1566.—The editor of *Port Hope Guide* having had his trip to Britan this sumr, reports that in the room in which at Edinburg James VI. of Scotland and I. of England was born the initials I. R. and M. R. ar workt in alternat compartments of the panels. On the walls is the foloing inscription surmounted by Scotish arms:

Lord Jesu Chryst, that erouint was with Thorne,
Preserve the Birth, quhair Bad: e beir is burne,
And send Hir Sonne Succession, to the gne stille
Lang in this Realm, if that it be thy will.
Als grant, O Lord, quhat ever of Hir proceed,
Be to Thy Honor and Praise, sobied.
19th IVNII, 1566,

I. R. is for IACOBVS REX, Latin for King James, IACOBVS (modernized, *Jacobus*, altho ther is neither *J* nor *u* in clasic Latin) being James. In like manr, IVNII is for *Juni*, genitiv case of *Junius*.

AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

An international fonetic asociation wud certaily be a boon, if it could be carid out, especially if it led to more agreement on questions of notation. Agreement is imposibl as long as each nation expects concessions to be made to the traditions of its own speling. We in England hav made a great step in the directi n of internationality by adopting Roman insted of English valyus, and it wud be a good thing if Frenchmen could be got to make a similar concession by abandoning their cumbrus diacritics. The valyus of evry letr o't to be settl on grounds of clearnes and consistency, and eaz and quiknes of riting.

I am not in favor of separating scientific from practical fonetics any more than can possibly be helpt. We want the best system, that is, the most fonetically simpl and consistent, both for science and practice. I think at present science o't to come first. Popular errors must be dispated and peopl must be taht to face the actual facts of language, insted of shirking them by unfonetic compromises. Let the schem be wel discust before anything definit is atempted.—H. SWEET, M. A., in *Paris Phonetic Teacher*.

THE INDICTMENT ORTHOEPIC.

But there is another reason why Revision of Sp. shud be pusht as fast as is expedient: it wil so greatly help our yung peopl to aquire a clear and a decided and therefore elegant pronunciation. Slovenly pronunciation is a crying sin of the American peopl. Consonants ar slurd, chipt or swallowd; vowels ar mixt and confused; words ar understood almost holly by context: a singl word ca rarely be understood without being repeated several times. Most peopl hav some idea of words if they can think of them as they appear in their ritn or printed forms, but of the parts of spoken words, that is their elementary sounds, they hav litl more conception than they hav of the atoms in a chemical combination. What we need is tha evry one shal recognize elementary sounds as separat identitis capabl of being utrd by themselves with eas and certanty. That is a result obtaind by the thoro training which children receive while lerning to read fonetic print; and this a-reciation of elementary sounds wud be perpetuated wer the print which they afterward habitualy red of a fonetic character. Then too the best pronunciation being habitualy presented to the eye correct pronunciation wud be the rule of ordinary speech. Like the ancient Athenian fishwom-en who wer said to hav spoken Greek with remarkabl purity, our lower classes wud speak with an acuray and grace which is now staind by the most careful orators only.—Mrs E. B. BUENZ [of New York, at meeting of the Normal School, Toronto, 17th Aug., 1883.]

LITERATURE.

PHRASES DES TOUS LES JOURS par Felix Franke. 16mo, 60 p. Henninger Bro's. Heilbronn, 1886. Price 80 pf. [25 cents]

This litl book by the late lamented Franke of Sorau is a companion to that of Passy, treating as it does in like way thoz frases which ar of evry day occurrence in French conversation *vis-a-vis* with its proper pronunciation. We dont recollect any similar work since that of the late Steven P. Andrews 30 years ago—a work for lerning French by Ollendorff's plan with the orthoepy oposit. Its use and its valyu ar apparent. With neither this nor Passy's is it explicitly stated whether it is colloquial or deliberat (Walker's *oratoric*) pronunciation that is givn. Apparently the distinction is not recognized. It is the part of Orthograpy to aproximate deliberat Orthoepy from which colloquial O. wil folo as necessary consequence. In Franke's book continuant *l* and *r* ar signified by italic *l* or *r*, ordinary *l* and *r* denoting pure consonants.

LE FRANCOIS PARLÉ: Morceaux Choisis a l'usage des étrangers, avec la Prononciation figuree, par Paul Passy. Heilbronn, Henninger freres, 1886, pp. xi and 115 16mo. Price, M 1.80 (say 50 cents.)

This treatis by the professor of Modern Languages in the Paris Normal School fils a need— that of a scolarly representation

of spoken French by a competent nativ. It consists of selections from classic French proz and vers givn on lft hand pages, the alternat pages giving the pronunciation. Our Ontario Educationl Department shud authorize its use in our High Schools where nativ French tutors ar almost never found. This wud correct and suplement present necessarily defectiv pronunciation therein taut. The author states that he givs the orthoepy usual in northern (or Parisian?) France. For the sound symbols used the equivalents ar givn in English, Holandish, German, Icelandic, Swedish and Danish; the foloing from preface is true and appropriate and givs the key note of the book:

[Translation] What we call pronunciation is the language itself of which the ritn form is only the quite conventional and comonly very imperfect representation. We no that to understand a language we must first make a rational study of the sounds which compoz it, smething which is almost imesible without exact representation of these sounds.

L'ANGLAIS PARLÉ; ou Methode Pratique pour apprendre a Parler, a Comprendre et a Lire en Anglais sans Maître. par Paul Passy. 24mo, pp. 154. London, F. Pitman, 20 Paternoster Row.

This litl work is for Frenchmen to aquire English. It is evidence of the spread of *Sound* methods of aquirng living tungs. Pronunciation is givn in a 12 vowel alphabet—les than 12 is never satisfactory. A statement on p. 2 deserves chalenging. It is to effect that vowels in *eel*, *fool* and *ball* difer in quantity only from thoz in *ill*, *full* and *ox*. To our ear, the 12 standard vowels ar all diferent in quality: they ar quite as distinct as the twelv individuals that compoz a jury—ther ar relationships between them, but each has his own individuality all the same. The litl book is bound separatly in two parts. They may be had of the publisher or at Librairie Shakspear, 75 Ruede Champs-Elysees, Paris, at a frans each, or both postpaid for say 50 cents.

ELEMENTE DER PHONETIK und Orthoepie des Deutschen, Englischen und Franzosischen, von Wilhelm Viëtor. 8vo, 271 pages, Henninger Brothers, Heilbronn, Prussia. Price, M 4.80 (say, \$1.25.)

This book by the lerned professor of filology at Marburg University is scolarly, acurat, painstaking and conscientius. Its first part describes the organs of speech, then the sounds in French, German and English ar described and compared, lastly how speech-sounds ar combined is stated and exampls givn in the three tungs by printing exampls in a much-market-let

alphabet. These examples have value from a scientific standpoint and deserve study from the practical (or popular) one. His analysis is full and commonly correct. Both deliberate and colloquial speech is given. It is regrettable that he appears to accept a Londonese dialect which is about as bad English as Viennese is bad German. Its dropped *r*s are about as bad as dropped *h*s—the latter habit is tabooed, the former deserves it. March says

“The American Association . . . follows the pronouncing dictionaris. It abjures peculiar orthoepy. This position is essential. The Londoner has a different way of sounding many elements from that of a Scotchman or an American—a in man, for example, e in there, o in note. If an alphabet goes behind historic distinctions, and adds new characters which discriminate the speech of London from that of Edinburgh and of Boston, it will separate English into several dialects, and no Londoner will be able to read an American book. Londoners seem not to think of any such impending privation. They take for granted that natural unsophisticated Londonese, the speech of the gentleman and scholar of the metropolis, is what is meant by standard English; that if only it can be set forth in print with all its glides and finishes, all its runs of unaccented, indistinguishable murmurs, and varied droppings and insertions, the rest of the world will accept and try to imitate. We shall never be able to reform our spelling by substituting colloquial Londonese for the present standard spelling.”

THE NEW TESTAMENT translated into the language of the Ojibwa Indians. New York, 12mo, p. 717.

This is one of many such books issued by Amer. Bible Society. It is interesting on account of the values given the vowels. The sign for that in *but* is not quite *u* but more like *v* made upright, a character suggested fifty years ago by the well known filologist, Hon. John Pickering of Boston. It has been much used by Amer. missionaries, as Mr Horatio Hale of Clinton, Ont., tells us. Here is the vowel alphabet—

a as in *father* e as in *hate, fate*
 i as in *machine*, or e in *mete* o as in *note*
 u as in *pool* or *u* in *full* *u* as in *sun, but*.
 A and i have, in certain positions, a modification of the above sounds, as
 a in *what, was, all*. i as in *pin, pit*.

PRONUNCIATION.

Grimsby Park now ranks among the pleasantest watering places in Canada. Amid other attractions, it is customary to have a pronouncing contest there annually. This is surely better than the spelling matches in vogue a few years ago—they but help perpetuate what Prof. Sayce calls ‘a mere series of arbitrary combinations, an embodiment of wild guesses, and etymologies of a prescientific age, the hap hazard caprice of ignorant printers.’ Good pro-

nunciation on the contrary, is a valuable accomplishment. In this year’s contest, the first prize was taken by Mr T. J. Parr, of Woodstock; second, Rev. Dr Withrow, of Toronto; third, Miss Edwards, of Seafort. Mr Parr furnishes the following account at our request:

The contest was held in the auditorium, competition open to all. This year there was an audience of about 600 who evinced great interest.—For a number of days preceding, careful preparation was made by those who intended to take a part. There were about 40 competitors. It was conducted by Prof. J. H. Bechtel, professor of Articulation in Philadelphia School of Oratory. An umpire was chosen. The words were printed on a long roll exposed to view. Contestants were divided into two parts, a word being given each side alternately. When a competitor mispronounced a word, he retired to the audience. The word was then pronounced correctly by Prof. B. When any peculiarity of sound was manifested or when accent was different from that commonly given, the professor remarked upon it and thus considerable information was conveyed. In fact, for days after, pronunciation was a leading topic. Many highly educated people found their usage faulty. The professor was guided chiefly by three points in deciding:—Clear and correct sounding of (1) vowels, (2) consonants, (3) proper placing of accent. If mistake were made in 1st and 3rd, either jointly or separately, this sent the candidate down. (2) was not adhered to so strictly. The standards of authority were Webster and Worcester. I give a list of words considered difficult or whose proper pronunciation differs from usage of majority. I shall append the pronunciation accepted.—*allies, almond, amateur*, (commonly accented on first syllable) *bestial, brigand, saison, camelopard, canine, carret, cayenne, coadjutant, coadjutor* (the different pronunciation of these similar words is remarkable) *condemning, congruent* (the first syllable should have special attention) *conversant, coquetry, coterie, cuirass, culinary, decade, defalcate, deficit, didactic, dishabille, dishevelled, disreputable, exemplary, facade, falcon, feoff, financier, frontier, gaucour, gibbet*. Good sense was shown in selecting words in common use, thus showing the audience as well as competitors that their usage was faulty in the words most used. I wish you success in the noble work of revising the ‘phenomenal’ spelling that now holds current.

University College, }
 Toronto, Oct. '86. }

T. J. PARR.

(Accent first syllable unless marked otherwise.)

al liz' a mund am a tyur'
 best yal brig and ces'son ca-
 mel'o pard ca nin' ca ret ca-
 en' co ad'ju tant co ad'ju'tor
 con dem'ning con'gru ent con-
 ver sant co ket'ri co te re'
 kwe ras'or kwe'ras kyul'nari
 dec ad defal'cat defi sit di-
 dac'tic (not di dac tic) fran chiz
 disha bil' di shev'ld egz em-
 pla ri fasad'or fasad' fe kn
 fef fin an ser' fron ter er
 frun ter gal lus jour jib et.