

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

4TH YEAR.

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N^R. 33

INTERNATIONALITY.

It may fairly be taken as axiomatic that all nations using Roman letters shud use them, so far as practicabl, in the same way, that is, with like sound-values. Ther is so general awakening among most of such nations to Reviⁿ of Sp. that it is now oportune for central superviⁿ, lest each nation may drift in diferent direcⁿ from others. As certn signs (say, 1, 2, 3, 4. . . .) ar used with same numeric values on one uniform (decimal) system, so shud signs for speech-sounds (a, c, e, d. . . .) be used with aproximately the same values evrywhere on one uniform (aproximately fonetic) plan.

An interna^l organizaⁿ to this efect is needed. It is at work. For want of beter name, it is calld Fonetic Teachers Associaⁿ, with hed-quarters in Paris and members throuth Europ and America. Organized 2 years ago, it is rapidly groing. Its members ar mainly interested in teaching living languages. Subjects for its work ar furnishd by serching analysis of speech and practical applicaⁿ therof to language-teaching—incidentally puting such teaching on a new basis. Guidance as to direction in which Revized Sp. shud be alowd not only to drift pasively but to be towd actively is got as a resultant precipitat of such work. It is governd by a council of 20 distributed thus: Germany and Austria 5, France 4, Eng. 2, with 1 each in Sweden, Belgium & Holland, Finland, Denmark, Canada, Iceland, U. S., Norway. It wil be seen that Germany leads—a beter account is needed of this side of Atlantic. By correspond^{ce} and circulars, the Council is always in seⁿ. It is proper that hed-quarters shud be on continent of Europ as that is the land of varid speech and polyglots. There ther is diversity and practice not got in N. America and hardly in British Isles.

More general means of comunicaⁿ is by its monthly organ, the *Fonetic Teacher*, chiefly in English, partly in Ger. and Fr. Adherent members pay 2 francs a year and receive a copy free; activ members, 5 francs (\$1), get 3 copis. Evry one shud help this organizaⁿ in its beneficent work. We beg leav to speak a good word for it.

The president is Prof. Victor of Marburg; the treasurer, M^r E. O. Kenyon, 25 Avenue de l'Opera, Paris. Subscripⁿ sent us we wil forward at sender's risk. A harty respons shud be promptly forthcoming.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

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Miss Mary B. Rudeboe, New Germantown, N. J., (got by Miss Suzan M. Phillips.)

If evry subscriber wud get another *who end continue subscription* and that evry year, it 'wud make things hum' by dubling circulaⁿ anually. Insted of one yearly, it shud be monthly. We hav several cases of a singl subscriber of 3 years' standing at a post-office (even a large city) who is stil alone at roll-call! shameful! Such ar ofn loud in saying "Why dont yu —?"

--Ther is a *practical* (popular) alfabet and a *theoretic* (scientific) alfabet. The first represents only the sounds necessary for expresion of tho't, the other concerns itself also with non-significant variations of such sounds. *Science demands that notaⁿ* be gramatically and logically correct, that it indicate the sound, quantity and accent, and that it form an organism. It also requires that regard be had to existing circumstances, and that in establishing a fonetic form of riting, the style of pronunciaⁿ which obtains in careful and formal speech, and is reflected in dictionaris and scool usage, be folod, in preference to quik, careles, slurring pronunciaⁿ, herd in colloquial uterance, or in local or dialectal speech. -- *Fricke*.

THE ILLITERAT SOUTH. In the South ar 8 million freedmen and their descendants, a distinctiv and uterly unasimilated peopl, dubling evry 20 years, of whom scarce 10 per cent. can read. Among large mases of white population of the South, illiteracy and degradation ar as great as among negros. *Cristian Union*.

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LEGISLATION IN U. S.

Mr. Voorhees has introduced in Congress at Washington a bil to provide for "an amended orthograpy," to take effect in all public scools of teritoris and District of Columbia, in military and naval academis, and in Indian and colord scools in teritoris. The changes proposed ar groupd under twelv heds. The first ordains that silent e s' d be dropt "when fonetically usesles," as in are, live, bronze, etc. The foloing rules relate to vowels and difthongs:

2.—Drop a from ea, having the sound of e, as in feather, leather, etc.

3.—Drop o from eo, having the sound of e, as in jeopardy, leopard, etc.

4.—For o having the sound of u write u in above (abuv), dozen, some (sum), tongue (tung), etc.

5.—Drop o from ou, having the sound of u, as in journal, nourish, rough (ruf), trouble, tough (tuf), etc.

6.—Drop silent u after g before a, and in nativ English words, as in guarantee, guard, guess, guest, guilt, etc.; drop final ue, as in apologue, catalogue, etc.; demagogue, pedagogue, etc.; league, harangue, tongue (tung), etc.

Then folo five rules relating to consonants:—

7.—Dubl consonants shal be simplified: Final b, d, g, n, r, t, f, l, z, as in ebb, add, egg, inn, purr, butt, bailiff, dull, buzz, etc. Medial before another consonant, as battle, ripple, written (writn), etc. Initial unaccented prefixes, and other unaccented syllabs, as in abbreviate, accuse, affair, etc.; curvetting, traveller, etc.

8.—Change d and ed, final, to t when so pronounced, as in crossd (crost), looked (lookt), etc., unles the e effects the preceding sound, as in chafed, chanced.

9.—Change gh and ph to f when so pronounced, as in cough, philosophy, etc.

10.—Change s to z in distinctiv words, as in abuse, verb; house, yerb; rise, verb; etc.

11.—Drop t in catch, witch, etc.

The twelfth rule takes up the cases of a few words which cannot be clast under the above, such as ache (ake), anchor (anker) women (wimen), through (thru). The bil has been handed over to the tender mercis of Comtee of Education.—*Mail*.

Each State in U. S., as each Province in Canada, has control of education. The Washington and Ottawa governments can but legislate for what is within their control. Each state and province can enact for itself in regard to the mater. What has been enacted by a central government shud

be folod by states severaly, so as to hav uniformity. We expect to see the bil killd,—to be repeated in one form or other til successful.

Congressman Warner has introduced a bil in Hous of Representatives to appoint a comision to enquire into reform of American speling, and reporting whether some practicabl plan has been devised simpler than that in use. It provides \$25 a day as expenses of comision.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

(To be ansord from previus issues.)

1. What consonants "hav an almost vowel purity of voice," according to Bell? Does Hensen's Speech-Recorder confirm this?

2. Who first reduced Anglo-Saxon to riting?

3. What sound is givn to o by the Geografic Society? Giv the Society's speling of Feejee, Zooloo, Foochow?

4. Pronounce Arkansas, Kansas, Bismarck, Keough, Clougher, Hawarden.

5. Explain how g came to be used in gh. How was the gatural represented in Saxon?

6. What language has been calld "grammarles"?

7. Where is Anglo-Saxon crosst d stil in use?

8. Has French any sound like our w?

9. What does z comonly represent in German? French? Italian? English?

10. Pronounce *Thiers*, *posthumous*, *hover*, *discernible*, *ghoul*, *caisson*.

11. What values does Amer. Bible Society giv a, e, i, o, u, in Ojibway?

12. What ar Italian values for a, e, i, o, u? Why ar they better than ours?

13. How does Bureau of Ethnology divide and anotate our vowels?

WELSH.—"Welsh orthog. is remarkably fonetic, having only one ambiguous leter, y. Except y, the sounds hav remaind the same for the last 300 years." So says Ellis in Chap. I, *E. E. Pron.* An attempt is being made, says the *Fonetic Journal*, which, while preserving the regularity of its speling, shal bring it in acord with letters as used by other nations. As this talis with a certn line of advance in alfabetics ("consonants as in Eng.") in other quarters, we ar glad to note it, preferring to record agreement insted of discord. The editor of *Cyvaill yr Aelwyd* proposes to make the foloing changes in his paper: 1, Use v for sound represented by that leter in Eng. and substitute it for f which has hitherto becn Welsh v. 2, Use f as in Eng., thus doing away with ff and ph. hitherto used in Welsh. 3, Do away entirely with dubling similar consonants. Y will stil stand for two sounds: i in it, and u in up.

TAMPERING WITH ORTHOEPY.

Temptation to tamper with pronunciation, if not to thoroly overhaul it, is almost irresistible to the spelling reformer, who, shrinking from his queer-looking words, finds that he can secure a comparatively natural-looking page by slight changes of pronunciation. Pitman, whose alfabet is on the hole admirabl, has a queer-looking type for *a* in *father*. He shuns its use. In a specimen of his printing selected by himself, we find it but once, tho pron. of dictionaris wud call for it 22 times. And so this noble sound, the leader in all alfabets, is buried in Pitman English. In a similar maner Pitman favors *o* in *not*; mainly, it wud seem, becauz he uses the comon type *o* for it, and new types for *o* in *no*, for *au* in *author*, *nor*, and for *u* in *but*, *son*. He lets the *o* stand in unaccented syllabls, and sometimes elswhere, for all three of these so diferent sounds. He prints it in the specimen just referd to 53 times, where the dictionaris wud give it only 24. If so eminent a leader as Pitman yields to temptation in this way, what can be expected of the minor alfabetical inventors? Yung fonologists also find it hard to rest with dictionary pronunciation. Microscopic investigation of living speech is just now the fashn, most novel and inviting field of original reserch. Why not use speling reform to prosecute such reserches? It is certny important scientific work.—*March*.

[The trubl is that inventors of alfabets force the language to fit their alfabets, insted of fitting their alfabets to the language. It reminds of what we can vouch for: A certn N. Y. surgeon was once fitting his club-foot shoe to a child, illustrating its action, adaptability, etc., when an Illinois doctor askt: "But what if the foot does'nt fit yur shoe?" "Why, (with emfasis) FIT YOUR SHOE TO THE FOOT, NOT THE FOOT TO THE SHOE: between fitting a foot to a shoe, and fitting a shoe to a foot, ther is is a— of a diference."—*Ed.*]

DIFERENCE OF PRONUNCIATION.

In practical use of any fonetic system, many questions of pronunciation, which have been hidn by ordinary speling, ar bro't into view, and demand anser. In consequence of the very abandonment of fonetic speling, [our speling was nearly fonetic a few centuris ago.] pronunciation of many words, especially in respect to unaccented vowels, has become obscure or unstable. In such cases no "authority" can be regarded as conclusiv. What is asumed to be a question of correctnes is ofn rather a question of conflicting analogis, of local usages, or dictionary-makers' pet theories, or of mere personal taste. Such questions do not admit of dogmatic treatment, but ar to be settl'd by evry man for himself, after due consid-

eration of diferent "authoritis," analogis and other means of determination. The rule is: make no change not plainly required by fonetic acuracy. When the sound is doubtful, let present speling stand.

It must be rememberd that these difficultis ar not the fault of fonetic speling. On the contrary, most of them ar a direct result of abandonment of fonetic speling, the restored use of which wil undoubtedly diminish such difficultis, and ultimately remove all that ar not inherent in the nature of our language.—*Buletin* 19.

SHORT SPELLINGS.—A. Wilder, M.D., Newark, N.J., rites to *Notes and Queris*: "The curent sets in for shorter spellings, and doutles this is beter. I don't approve of fonetic savageris, but radical reform shud be establisht in pronunciation [?] and orthograpy, and all peopis using Roman alfabet shud participate in it."

GRIM'S VIEWS.—Grim the great German filologist has said: "Altho French has for centuris been the comon language of Europ in a diplomatic and social sens, yet it has never obtaind a firm footing in large tracts of cuntry beyond Europ. On other hand, English may be considerd the language of the world outside of Europ, and this idiom (which by a bold mixture of Gothic and Roman elements, and by fusion of gramatical forms which this renderd necessary, has ataind an incomparabl degree of fluency) appears destind by nature, more than any other that exists, to become the world's language. Did not a whimsical, antiquated orthograpy stand in the way, the universality of this language wud be stil more evident, and we other Europeans may esteem ourselves fortunat that they hav not made this discovery." We hav seen these words credited to Rask, insted of Grim

HOW TO BEGIN.—In begining to practis new speling, don't try to do too much. Take the tassel from *have*, *are*, *live*, *give*, etc. Bob *programme*, *though* and *catalogue*: spel them *program*, *tho* and *catalog*. When yu and yur readers hav got used to these, venture farther. If yu like to go by rule, look up the rules of Filologic Assoc'n, or, what is beter for evry beginner, the Two Rules* proposed by Dr. A. Hamilton, and used in Toronto *Herald*. This cours wil insure sucres, and wil make any jurnal more respected, becaus more progresiv, and yu wil be doing what yur conscience tels yu yu shud. By intelligent peopl, speling reform is now invtd. They want to no what it is. Who but editors of magazines and newspapers can sho it them?—*Fur. Amer. Orthocfy*.

*REVISED SPELLING: OMIT *usoles* loters. CHANGE *d* to *l*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, if sounded so.

—All the *public* can be got to swalo is a small dose of patching up of the old speling; but, for scientific and educational purposes, we must hav ful fonetic speling—with digrafts, diacritics or new letters, according to circumstances.—Paris *F. Teacher*.

STANDARD SPEECH.—Standard English I take to be a mean between pronunciation of elocutionists and that of slip-shod conversation. To decide at what point freedom ceases to be allowable and becomes slip-shod is so personal a matter that it wud lead to endless recrimination. . . . Ordinary reading pronunciation is tolerably certain, and I therefore propose that we take it for the basis of our fonetic transcription. It divides us less than any attempt to give a standard based on colloquialisms; moreover, it avoids for learners the risk of acquiring a provincial or inelegant pronunciation.—W. MAXTON, in Paris *F. Teacher*.

EFFECT ON EXISTING LITERATURE.—Other persons assert that by changing speling our national literature wud be spoilt, and associations with past destroyed. Yet our bible and prayer-book, Shakspere and Milton, are now spelt very differently to what they originally were, and are none the worse. Another class of objections is that our librarians will be rendered useless, our whole typographic arrangements upset, and that all our educational appliances wud hav to be remodeled. These objections could only have force were change of speling effected by some sudden revolution compulsorily enforced, a procedure which, as far as I am aware, no speling reformer has ever advocated. It is quite certain that, in whatever shape a new mode of speling may come, its introduction will be slow and gradual. It will resemble the transition from manuscripts to printed books, from black-letter to common types, or from ancient Roman numerals to the present notation [of numbers.] All these have taken place without any catastrophe. As, however, no important changes can be effected without inconvenient results in some quarters, it should be a serious consideration how to secure maximum of advantage with minimum of inconvenience.—Dr. J. H. GLADSTONE in *Sp. Reform from an Educational Point of View*.

BRITISH DIALECTS.

(Scene—A rural hostelry. Enter two swells. Waiter shows them into parlor and awaits order.)

First swell: Waitah! Two gwass b'aw. You take b'aw, Chaws?

Second swell: Yaw.

F. S.: Haw! Waitah, two gwass b'aw.

Waiter (looking puzzled): I beg y'r pardon. Whit wis it ye ordered?

F. S.: B'aw.

S. S.: Yaw.

F. S.: Haw!—yaws, b'aw.

W. (astonished): I'm sorry, gentlemen, but I'm kin' o' deaf the day. Wid ye oblige me by speakin' oot a bit?

F. S. (shouting): Two—gwass—b'aw.

S. S. (shouting): Yaw.

W. (dumbfounded): I'm sorry, gentlemen, but we're oot o'—quite oot o'—o' b'aw the noo. Wid ye tak' onything else?

F. S.: B'aw? Oot of b'aw! Strange haws! Waitah! bwing us pawtah. You take pawtah, Chaws?

S. S.: Yah.

F. S.: Haw! Waitah, two bawtals pawtah

W. (flabbergasted): Looder, if ye please, sir, looder!

Both swells (shouting): Pawtah! pawtah! *W.* (shaking his head dolefully): Sorry, gentlemen, we're oot o' pawtah the noo. Onything else ye wid like?

F. S.: Pawtah? oot of pawtah! Stwange haws! Hey, Chaws?

S. S.: Yaw, yaw.

F. S.: Waitah! bwing us pawt. You take pawt, Chaws?

S. S.: Yaw.

F. S.: Haw! A bawtah pawt, waitah.

W. (scratching his head): There's no a drap in the hoose, sir.

Both swells: No pawt! No pawt! Stwange haws! No pawt!

W.: Not a drap, gentlemen.

F. S.: No pawt! Well, bring us—aw—anything, haw! You take—aw—anything Chaws?

S. S.: Yaw.

F. S.: Haw! Waitah, bwing us—aw—anything—haw!

W. (recovering his senses): Very guid, sir. [Exit.]

F. S.: No b'aw no pawtah, no pawt. Stwange haws! Hay Chaws?

S. S.: Yaw.

F. S.: Haw!

(Re-enter waiter, bearing tray with bottles of beer, stout, porter, sherry, port, etc., sets it down before swells.)

W.: Noo, tak' yer pick, gentlemen.

Both swells (staring at tray): Great heavens!

(Both faint sitting. Waiter holds up his hands in astonishment. Slow music from barrel-organ outside. Tableaux.)

[The above is clipped from newspaper. We have given the piece just as found—imperfectly, because using only old-letter forms. A great use to which an established enlarged alphabet will be put is to properly indicate dialect, now imperfectly given with no small cost of ingenuity and labor in pages of such novelists as Bennet and Cable, or in poetry by Mair and Curzon. The extract gives London dialect with *rs* dropt, not *hs*; the waiter is Scottish.—ED.]