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The

Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TU ERTHOEPI AND ERTHOGRAFI.

1st Yer. Port Hope, Canada Nov., 1885. Nº 9.

ALFABETIC STUDIZ.

III.-SHADE VGWELS (continued.)

What shade vowels need and deserv alfabetic representation? This is best ansrd by specifying such as hav separat letr-shapes asignd in alfabets at some time or another. This wil giv the general opinion of those who go beyond twelv vowels. We believ we ar safe in saving that the alfabets lookt on with most favor represent twelv vowels only. If any alfabet has been overlockt it has been due to our not being aware of its existence. Any such omision wil not The reader must afect conclusions. remember that we seek the necessary distinctions of sound requisit for alfabetic purposes in practice popularly not for dictionary use.

a. In 1843, Mr A.J.Ellis insisted that the vowel in *burn* was esentially diferent from that in *bul*. From 44 to 47, it had its own sign in both fc nografy and fonotypy. It was abandona in both after three years in which it provokt much oposition. Mr Pitman has not departed from twelv vowels since '47. He has givn a grafic acount of whathe holds was wors than three years loss of time to the movement. It cripld it in ways not yet in ful recoverd from.

b. Dr Comstock publisht the New Testament in Philadelphia in '47, and gave a separat caracter to vowel in air, which he considers composed of the vowels in end and up. Those in tube, ile, oil and out ar givn singl aigns as if simpl: the general opinion considers them difthongs.

c. Mr A.Longley stil uzes the alfabet of '54 with the vowel in care.

d. Graham in his Handbook of Fon ografy, N. Y. '60, distinguisht vowels

in air, whole, her, ask.

e. Mr Elias Longley, between 58 and '84 publight at least two primers and much els. Up to Oct., 84, he insisted on distinguishing the vowels in air, earn and arm. Since, he uzes none at all. In this he is influenced more by a spirit of compromise than conviction. He states that he found after five years' trial that it was imposibl to get his previus alfabet accepted.

f. Knudsen uzes that in bird or fur, g. Benn Pitman, (New Test., Cincinnati, about 62) has earth, air, ask.

h. Bancroft (San Francisco Alfabet, 1884.) givs her.

i. Coombs, (Complete Fonetic Alfabet, N.Y., 1884) give arm, earnest, air and irksome.

j. U.S. S.R.A. givs care, far, burn. k. Simpson of Leamington, Ontario, publisht an alfabet at Ridgetown in 81. It is a system of diacritics, making the same distinctions as Webster: care, far, there, term. firm.

l. An alfabet has just apeard anonymusly in Canada which givs earn.

The vowel in *whole*, as distinguisht from that in *no*, is not considerd worthy of alfabetic discrimination by any but Graham. As it stands alone, we omit it.

Again, it makes no diference whether we ar to discriminate the vowel in arm from that in ask (pronounced dsk.) or vice versa. If arm be the principal, ask is the shade; if ask be principal, arm is its shade.

Of the six shade vowels givn by some riters, as Phyfe, it appears that four only hav ever been considerd worthy of alfabetic distinction, viz:—

1. arm, far, [from ask (ask)]

2. earn, her, earth, bird, term, firm, earnest, irksome.

3. burn, urn.

4. air, care, there.

Altho some wud hav burn and urn placed in the same list as carn, etc., it wil not afect conclusions

Observ: the vowel is folowd in each word by r. May not r hav something to do with the preceding vowel? Such change does not always depend on ralone, for we frequently find vowels not affected by r. as in marry. error, spirit, carriage. In each of the latr. how. ever, the r is imediatly folowd by a vow el in the same word. So, looking again at the list above, we ar struk by the remarkabl fact that the r is either final in sound, or els is imediatly folowd by a consonant. In care, r represents the final sound, the e being silent. If yu ask for several example of a shade vow el it wil ofn be quite amusing to observ that the above rule holds thruout the list. For exampl, the singl vowel givn by Knudsen is ilustrated by bird, earth, berth, mirth, fur, fir.

It apears, then, that when certan vowels ar folowd by r and another consonant imediatly in the same word, or if the r be final in sound, the preceding vowel either undergoes (i) an actual change, producing a shade vowel; or (ii) no change ocurs. What is this change? if any. Is it one of quality? We believ observation to say not. It is one of quantity only. Accordingly, as it is no function of a letr-shape to represent quantity, but quality only, ther is no need of aditional shapes.

If no change is produced, ther is no use for a distinctiv sign to mark an imaginary diference. If yu take the other case however that a change (whethr of quantity or quality or both makes no diference) the r final or the r and the other consonant wil be always there to indicate such change. In either case "AWAY WITH SHADE VOWELS!" They ar oposed to simplicity and ar superfluus to boot.

MEAN: To receiv the HERALD month after month in silence and then return it when a bil is render..

GIV YUR NAME.—We hav receive a subscription without name or adres.— Some one (in Toronto?) has returnd the paper in like manner. Who?

NEW MINIMUM.-On page 31 we stated the following Rules:

A. OMIT evry useles letr. B. CHANGE (d, ph, g)

CHANGE $\begin{cases} d, ph, gh \\ if so sounded to t, f, f. \end{cases}$

In efect, they amount to very nearly the 24 Joint Rules. In some respects. they go a litl beyond them; in others, they fall a litl short. Rule B is fuly justified by the 24; Rule A is very nearly so. Both of them speal to sound or pronunciation as guiding fundamental principl. We propose that these be made a new minimum. They ar not to be adopted until fairly and fuly illustrated and tested in modifying the present forms of words so as to giv an aproved aproximation in recording pronunciation. We hav drifted grad. ualy from the principl of speling by sound, and we expect to get bak to it by successiv approximations rather than by such revolution. In this issue we ilustrate the Rules partialy. We hope our readers wil note our orthografy. criticise and sugest a betr. In sugesting a betr, changes must be founded on definit guiding principls. In other words, alterations must not depend on

"REVISED SPELING" might be employd as an expresiv term for the orthografy givn by Rules A and B, as they may be considerd as the outcome of the Revision of Speling now in progres, or so much of it as is generaly agreed on. We hav as good a right to spel by them as we hav to uze the Revised Translation of the bibin insted of that of 1611. No one shud be compeld to uze the arbitrary orthografy of this or any past century insted of one that is aproximatly rational and regular.

FURTHER STEPS.—At page 22, we gave the succesiv steps by which so low a minimum as the Five Rules was reacht. The next step wud apear to be the adoption of the Ten Rules, as givn p. 28. After that wud come the Joint Rules or their equivalent, Rules A and B.[®] The latr ar in much simpler form than the Joint Rules, and apealing as both A and B do to the principl of sound, ar capabl of redy use without resort to memory, but using the car as a gnide, aided by reason.

Mr Geo. C. Holland rites from Ottawa: "In speling, I conform to prevailing uzage, arbi,rary and unreasonabl tho it ofn is. I do not look upon speling by sound as altogether utopian but think it wil not acomplish much in my lifetime." When those whose pro fesion it is to educate the public ar bro't to seet the wisdom and utility of a les arbitrary mode of speling, something may be done for the next generation, but til then those of us who hav been drild by a diferent order of instruction ar likely to maintains the old standard of orthografy."

I'In our old Latin exercise book, we red "The good man plants trees of which he wil never see the fruit." The case is not so far off as that: ther is some fruit alredy. By the wise foretho't of our ancestors. we enjoy much; we shud do as much for posterity-yes for ourselvs.

Teachers say the demand must be from the outside: they ar powerles, tho comonly wling, to change, unles the Education Department sanction, and it in turn is powerles, even if wiling, unles the public demand, at least giv silent consent, to change. How can we betr become a multitude than by a leag-Union? "Drops of water turn a mil." How can we promulgate views betr than by a litl jurnal whose price is the veriest trifle? Yet sending that trifle is an ernest and wil help it to be establisht. Evry litl helps. Besides, we do more than talk: we giv example of eilier steps; we exemplify a stage employing a sign for each vowel. We thereby demonstrate its simplicity and practicability. We hav begun-a good begining is haf the batl. We must begin somewhere if we ar to acomplish.

How can they be bro't to see it unles we urge it upon them?

§We shud be neither expected to do so nor compeld. Yu can and shud alow yur neighbor to do so if preferd; and so not be obstructiv.-ED.]

CONCORDIA SALVS rites "that, while forming an alfabet, we shud

i. Be strictly and consistently fonetic both in simpl letrs and in digrafs.

in deliberat pronunciation.

iii. Chooz existing letrs for the sounds they most frequently represent in the old orthografy.

(A corolary to i.) If a difthong is iv. non to be differently sounded by good speakers in diferent places, it shud hav a new sign."

Many consider (iii) questionabl if construed to mean our language only insted of agreement between nations uzing Roman letrs. Conformation to the spirit of the "Open Letr" on p. 19 is important, perhaps esential. Again, (1v) is probably a good sugestion, cuting the Gordian not-rather than untying it by giving a quite satisfactory solution.—EDITOR.]

Rev. Howard Crosby, D. D., LL. D., rites to the Home Jurnal: "The change of ph to f is a very proper one even on antiquarian grounds. The Greek letr fi was a singl letr for a singl sound." What we now need is some central authority, like the Academy in France. to set us a going. The omision of the mute letrs wil be easy, but changes of letrs wil require a great deal of efort. The adition of new letrs wil be hardest of all to establish. Next to an academy the newspaper pres is the best power to forward this matr."

[•F was the Latin equivalent of the Greek letr. In Italian. the lineal desendant of Latin, f only is uzed. It is the same in Spanish.

The order of dificulty is very well It is a law in dynamics that all put. motion is in the direction of least resistance. Acordingly, Rules A and B point out a definit, considerabl, and perhaps easy line of advance. How generaly acceptabl it wil prove we wait to see.- Ep.]

JEWELLERY is an od colocation of useles letrs. On more than haf of the sign-boards we read Jewelry.

JAPAN.-The Japanese ar moving toards reform in riting and speling. They propose to lay aside their old Chinese caracters which they heretofore uzed and introduce Roman letrs employd in fonetic fashon. As it is, it requires a large part of a lifetime to ii. Recognize only broad typic sounds lern their alfabet.-Shorthand Riter.

BOOK NOTICE.

GERMAN PRONUNCIATION: Practice and Theory - The 'Best German,' German Sounds, and how they ar represented in Speling; the Letrs of the Alfabet, and their fonetic values, German Accent; Specimens. By W. Vietor, Ph. D., M.A., Prof. Eng. Phil ology, Marburg, and late Lecturer on Teutonic Languages. University College, Liverpool. Henniger Bro's Publishers, Heilbronn, 1885.

This litl book is a contribution to comparativ orthoepy. It is acurat and for the most part lucid. The German o as in soll, von, etc., is stated to be between the o in wohl and that in our word or. In other words, the o in von is between the vowel sounds in our no and or. The shape (\cdot) is capabl of such modification as shal indicate international diferences. Thus we can hav () or other variety of modified o for print while the script form vud be alike for all nations. Our o as in not is of very exceptional ocurence in German, if indeed it ocurs at all. This is but one of a host of points raisd by an atentiv study of this lit! work. It is in English and may be had of B.Westermann & Co., 524 Broadway New York.

JUST SO.—"As we understand it, what foneticians aim at is to drop use les letrs from words and hav them drest in a befiting modern garb rather than in the whilasical tatrs of antiquity."— Shorthand Riler.

GERMANY.—The substitution of f for pk and the omision of certan dubl vowels and silent letrs hav been introduced by law in all the public scools of Prussia. Simi'ar changes hav been adopted in Hanover, Bavaria, Wirtemberg and Austria.—Home Jurnal.

TURKEY.—The Otoman Porte has decided on the constitution of an Academy for the Turkish language and has named some of the members.— These, according to the Athenaeum. ar not non in western Europe. The object of the Academy apears to be chiefly to carry out a system of Speling Ref m in the department of public instruction —fonetic speling capabl of representing sientific and geografical terms. PRINCIPLS OF SPELING REVISION. (From Home Jurnal.)

- 1.-Begin with the simplest steps.
- 2.—Advance by molerat graditions that wil cause no break in the language.
- 3.—Conform speling to pronunciation in esentials, not atempting superfine distinctions.
- 4.—Folow as standard the pronunciation of the best speakers and cultivated peopl.
- 5.—Make only such new spelings as render at once the pronunciation more certan.
- 6.—Make only final changes such as wil not hav to be set aside in subsequent revisions.*
- 7.—Make changes by absolute rules without multiplying exceptions.
- 8.—Preserv, while useful in transition the traces of order and system alredy existing in orthografy.
- Keep in view the co operation of reforms in pronunciation when desirabl to restore breaks and and complete the regularity and symetry of the language.
- 10.—Keep in view also the adoption of a comon standard of values among all nations uzing the Roman alfabet

[*This principl we interpret to forbid any new expedient.—Ep]

F FOR PH.--Mr J. B. RUNDEL rites to the Cristian World: 'One of the easiest changes to make is that of riting f for ph when the latr is sounded as f. This change is very simpl but very serching and it might wel be lookt upon as a "blue ribbon" for adoption by those persons who wish to mark their dissatisfaction with the curent mode of speling but hav no time to spend over Such words as further alterations. telegraf, folograf, paragraf, etc., aford constant oportunitis for exhibiting the In Italian it has alredy been change. made."

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