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## Phe

# Fonetic 

## ALFABETIC SIUDIZ.

## III.-Shade Vewels (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 saying that the alfabets lookt on with most favor represent twelv vowels only. If any alfabet has been overlo ikt it has been due to our not being aware of its existence. Any such omision wil not afect conclusions. The reader must remomber that we seek the necesary distinctions of sound requisit for aifa. betic purposes in practice popularly not for dictionary use.
a. In 1843, Mr A.J.Ellis insisted that the vowel in burn was esentialy diferent from that in but. From 44 to 47 , it had its own sign in both fi nografy and fonotypy. It was abandona in both after three years in which it provolst much oposition. Mr Yitman has not departed from twelv vowels since '47. He has givn a grafic acount of what he 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 Cumstock 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 opinien sonsiders them difthongs.
c. MrA. 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 mure by a spirit ot 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., I884) givs arne, earnest, air and irksome.
j. U.S. S.R.A. givs care, fir, burn.
k. Simpson of Leamington, Ontario, publisht an alfabet at Ridgetown in 81 . It is a system of diacritios, making the samedistinctions 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 ask,) 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 apears that four only hav ever been considerd warthy of alfabetic elistiaction, viz:-

1. arm, far, [from ask (ask)]
2. earrs, 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 $r$ alone. for we frequently find vowels not afected by $r$. as in $m^{r} \cdot r y$, error,spirit. carriage. In each of the latr, however, 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 exampls of a shade vor. 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 ilnstrated 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 nreceding vowel either undergoes (i) an actual change, producing a shade rowel; 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. Acordingly, as it is no function of a letr-shape to rep. resent quantity, but quality only, ther is no need of aditional shapes.

If no change is produced, ther is no use for a distmetiv 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 $r$ tinal or the $r$ and the other consonant wil bealways there to indiczte such change. In either case "Afay withe Seade Vowelsl" 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 s bil is readerc.

Giv Yur Namb. - We hav receivd 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 folowing Rules:
A. OMIT evry useles letr.

In efect, they amount to very nearly the 24 Soint 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 a peal to sound or pronunciation as guiding fundamental principl. We propose inat 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 succesiv aproximations rather than by sudn 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 individual whims but general consent.
"REVISOD SPELING" might be employd as an expresir 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 gond a right to spel by them as we hav to uze the Revised Translation of the bibi? 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 latrar 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 uaing the ear as a gaide, aided by reason.

Mr Geo. C. Holland rites from Ot tawa: "In speling, I conform to pre. vailing uzage. arbivrary 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 publict 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 diterent order of instruction ar likely to maintain§ the old standard of orthografy."
["In our old Latin exercise book, we red "The grod 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 ourselve.
$\dagger$ Teachers say the demand must be from the outside: they ar porerles, tho comonly w.ling, 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 tura a mil." How can we promulgate views betr than by a litl jurnal whose price is the veriest trifie? Yet sending that tritle is an ernest and wil help it to be establisht. Evry litl helps. Besides, we do more than talk: we giv exampls of eslier steps; we exemplify a stage employing a sign for each vowel. We thereby demonstrate its simplicity and practicubility. We hav begun-a good begining is haf the batl. We must begin somewhere if we ar to acomplish.
$\ddagger$ How can they be bro't to see it unles we urge it upon them?
§We shud be neither ezpected 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 skud
i. Be strictly and consistently fonetic both in simpl letrg and in digrafs.
ii. Recognize only broad typic sounds
in deliberat pronunciation.
iii. Chooz existing letrs for the sounds they most frequently represent in the old orthografy.
iv. (A corolary to i.) If a diftheng is non to be diferently sounded by good speakers in diferent places, it shud hav a new siga."
|Many consider (iii) questionabl if construed to mean our language only insted of agreement between nation; uzing Roman letrs. Conformation to the spirit of the "Open Letr" on p. 19 is importent, perhaps esential. Again, (iv) is probably a good sugestion, cuting the Gordian not-rather than catying it by giving a quite satisfactory solution.-Editor.]

Rev. Howard Crosby, D. D., LL. D., rites to the Home Jurna': "The change of $p h$ to $f$ is a very proper one even on antiquarian grounds. The Greek letr $f i$ 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. Neat to an academy the newspaper pres is the best power to forward this matr." $\dagger$
[ ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ 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.
tThe order of dificulty is very wel put. It is a law in dynamics that all motion is in the direction of least res. istance. 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.-ED.]
Jemellery 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 ChiLese caracters which they heretofore uzed and introduce Roman letrs employd in fonetic fashon. As is is, it requires a large part of a lifetime to lers their alfabet.-Shorthand Riter.

> BOOK NOTICE.

German I'ronunolation: Practice and 'Theory - The 'Best German,' German Sounds, and bow they ar repres ented 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 comparaciv orthoepy. It is acurat and fer 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 oin von is between the vowel sounds in our no and $o r$. The shape $t$ is capabl of such moditication as shal indicate interna. tional diferences. Thus we can hay $(\underset{ }{( })$ or other variety of modified $o$ for print while the script form vud be alike for all nations. Uur o as in not is of very exceptional ocurence in German, if in. deed it ocurs at all. This is but one of a host of points raisd by an atentiv study of this litl 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 crop use les letre from words and hav them dre:t in a befiting modern garb rather than in the whinasical tatrs of antiquity.' Shorthand Riter.

GERMANY.-The substitution of $f$ for $p k$ and the omision of certan dubl vowels and silent letrs har 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, acording to the Athenceum. ar not non in western Europe. The object of the Academy apears to be chietty to carry out a system of Speling Ref m in the department of publicinstruction -fonetic speling capabl of represent. ing sientific and geografical terms.

Pringepls of Speling Revision. (From Hrme Jurnul.)
1.- Begin with the smplest steps.
2.-Advance by molerat graditions that wil cause no break in the language.
3.-Conform speling to pronunciation in esentials, not atempting superline 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.-Mak9 onfy 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, white useful in transition the traces of order and system alredy existing in orthografy.
9.-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 am. ons all nations uzing the Roman alfabet
["This principl we interpret to forbid any new expedient.-ED ]
$F$ for PH.--Mr J. B. Rondel rites to the Cristian World: 'Une of the easiest changes to make is that of riting $f$ for $p h$ when the late is scunded 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 'vo wish to mark their dissatisfaction with the curent mode of speling but hav no time to spend over further alterations. Such words as telegraf. fotografi, paragraf, etc:, aford constant oportunitis for exhibiting the change. In Italian it has alredy been made."

\footnotetext{
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