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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

TH YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, June, 1888.

N^R 35.

PRONUNCIATION.

How is the word Volapük pronounced? Anser, vola pek. It is a rule, without excep'n of cours, that the last sybl has accent in Volapük. Ther is then no need to denote it. We must hav a fixt and def-jit Nota'n by which to indicate pronun-cia'n with filosofic acuracy in these pages. In now undertaking to develop such, we dout if we can do beter than take the word Volapük as the text for a first lesn. The sign *e* denotes close *i* (as in *machine*). Two dots foloing *e* indicate that while utering *e* the lips ar to be protruded, much as in whisling but to les degree. Normally, lips ar retracted to giv the oral vocal tube its minimum of length in close *i*. This protru'n modifies the sound as certly as varyng a horn's length modifies its note. The sign (:) may be taken to symbolize the protruding lips. While les symbolic, it is neater to place the sign above (as, *ë*). Doing so in riting may be preferabl; but in print objec'ns appear: (1) we hav already a use establisht for two dots over a vowel, call'd dieresis, denoting that two consecutiv vowel-signs ar to be sounded separatly, as in orthoëpy, preëminent, coördinat, etc. (2) These markt letters (*ä, ê, î, ö, ü*) ar not comon in our printing-offices. The hyfen is made to do duty for them; as, pre-ement. The colon (:) is always at hand. (3) Other nations hav these markt letters, mostly for a diferent purpos. In German, *ä, ö, ü*, ar used to denote sounds diferent from simpl *a, o, u*—in other words, they ar diacritic. Volapük uses *ä, ö, ü, a, o, u*, as in German; its inventor, Father Schleyer, is a German, and so it has a cast decidedly German. Wer our speling so far mended that we wud not hav two vowel-signs for one vowel-sound, the dieresis wud not be necessary—one minor advantage of many. The compositor who sets up most of these pages has been instructed to omit dieresis generally—a harbinger of a beter time to come. To sum up, let : denote labial protrusion. One vowel, close *u* (*ü*), is always uterd with protruded lips: so that puting the sign (:) after *ü* is a work of superero-gation. With *ü*, maximum protru'n occurs

when under accent. With open *u*, (*u* as in *put*), protrusion always occurs with accent. That it always occurs without accent, is doubtful. With *u* and *ü*, then, protru'n is implied generally.

(To be continued.)

OUR EXCHANGES.

Notes & Queries, monthly, Gould & Bro., Manchester, N. H., \$1 a year.

The Altruist, monthly, Alc. Longly, 2 N. 4th St., St. Louis, Mo., 50 cents a year.

The Phonetic Journal, weekly, Isaac Pitman & Sons, Bath, Eng., 6 shil' a year.

L'Instituteur Stenographique, Organe officiel de la Societe francaise de Stenographie, semi-monthly, 4 rue des Feuillantines, Paris, France, 4 francs un an.

The Phonetic Teacher. See p. 129.

Cosmopolitan Shorthand, monthly, T. Bengough and C. H. Brooks, Public Library Building, Toronto, \$1 a year.

Buletin Mensuel de la Societe de Reforme Orthographe, 56 rue Jacob, Paris, France, 2½ francs un an.

Phonographic Magazine, monthly, J. B. Howard, Cincinnati, Ohio, \$1.50 a year.

Journal of American Orthoëpy, monthly, C. W. Larison, Ringos, N. J., \$1 a year.

Reform, zeitschrift des allgemeinen Vereins für vereinfachte Rechtschreibung, D. Soltau, Norden, Prussia, Marks 2.40 a y'r, monthly, edited by Dr Fricke, Wiesbaden.

Canadian Silent Observer, semi-monthly, R. C. Slater, 39 King St. w., Toronto, \$1.

Caledonia Springs Sanitarium, monthly, K. Arnoldi, Cal. Springs, Ont., 10 cents.

—Subscrip^{ns} in arears markt by a cross.

—Ar the foloing ded —?

Rev. Marc Ami, Ottawa, Ont.

Nelson Taylor, jun., S. Norwalk, Conn.

trial corner.]

Trüth is grat and must preval:

Trit the adaj; how and when?

Trial tels anuther tal:

Trüth has fald, wil fal agen,

Unles bakt by trüthful men.

—A. J. Ellis.

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—If the reader wud like to see "Ajax defying lightning" he shud get the *Can. Silent Observer* for 1st June. He even "defies the allegator" after talking about a squating-hors, a Turkey carpet, spewing out "rottn apls," "ad nauseam," etc. He certnly pays a poor compliment to inteligence of his readers if he thinks them so lo mentaly as not to be able to tel bluster from courteous reasoning. He meets facts by bald asertion—mere waste of breth. "We care nothing about European records" is one of his statements. Facts ar nothing to him, a self-sufficient omniscience. His readers ar not imbecils and wil be sure to infer the weaknes of his position when he resorts to the lawyer's plan: "No case! abuse the plaintiff!" It is "talking bak," a reply, not an anser. Insted of going on so, it wud hav been more consistent with his good work to be cam, be logical, "be just and fear not."

THE DEF-DUM.—A British Comision is now considering best methods of caring for and teaching the def-dum. Prof. A. Graham Bell has been invited to giv evidence before it and saild the other day for that purpos.

"SPELING REFORM GEMS."—This is a pamphlet compiled by C. W. Larison, M.D., to be had from him at Ringos, N.J., for 15 cents. It is made up of selections, chiefly vers, exposing irregularitis of curent sp., Gregory's epistl, ritn 50 years ago, being among them. Another is the colouqu between the swels and waiter from these colums two months ago. This being in a 12-vowel alfabet, as ar al the selections, a moderately acurat representation of dialectic (Scotsh and London) speech is givn. The pamphlet wil hav great interest for evry completely converted advocat of Amended Sp. Being consistent in using signs (all differentiated, no diacritics) and wel printed, it points a beter way while giving exampls of absurditis of the old way.

NEOGRAFIE.—This is a 16-page pamphlet by Mons. Jules Ferrette, Lausanne, Switzerland, publishd there by A. Duvoisin, for a few cents. It is in a degree and kind of Amended Sp. such as that got by speling *spear, speer; mile, meil;* etc.—intended to be a first stage to complete system givn in a pamphlet by same author noticed in Feb. issue. It is in French which is certnly very legibl to one familiar with ordinary forms of Fr. words. We find *avouar*, for example, for *avoir*. Ther ar two opinions as to whether this is wise for either Fr. or Eng. As Charles Lamb is said to have remarkt about predestina'n: "A good deal can be said on both sides." Leaving the orthografic dres of the pamphlet, its materis good. We approve

many sentiments exprest, of which one translated from p. 12 wil serv as sampl: "[Neografy] rites evry word, not necessarily as soundd in its conection [with surround-ing words] or as found actualy in colloquial speech, but as it wud be pronounced if it had the fulest (plainest?) pronuncia'n of which it may be suseptibl."

FONOGRAF.—*Science* for 25th May givs account of speech-recording aparatus of both Prof. A. Graham Bell and Edison, inventers of telefon and fonograf respectively. Both 'peard separatly in public lately in N. Y. A wax coating supersedes the tinfoil which in Edison's old fonograf receivd indentations of the recording stylus. This difers from Hensen's speech-recorder noticed by us a year ago. The American instruments reproduce the sound. We expect perfect'n of fonograf to giv a means which wil elucidate many obscure points in fonology. At present the study of fonology is beset with difficultis diminisht by simpler alfabetic notation coming into use. Wer a lot of fonologists got together, progres wud be rapid. Transmission of speech-sounds by alfabetic signs, however perfected, must always fall short of actual voice. With fonograf, sounds can be recorded, enveloped, sent where letters go, reproduced so as to be studid by being repeated over *ad libitum*, and in effect wil giv a general conference of world speech-congres and a new era wil hav dawnd, that 's all.

AMENDED SPELING IN GERMANY.

Ther has been a definit amendment in sp. made official in German. Brandt (*German Gram.*, Putnam, N. Y.), says this is equivalent to the change that is made in our orthografy by applying to it "the Five Rules" givn last month, and illustrated by a specimen over a colum long. That this was accomplisht—not talkt about, actually accomplisht and in ful blast in newspapers, books, etc.—is a rather nasty dose for our old foggy objectors of the *Observer* clas. They hav to take it thro.

This amendment was givn effect by the Prussian government issuing an official pamphlet giving word-lists of authorised spelings which all teachers wer required to folo begining 1st April, 1880. For the foloing account of how this was bro't about we ar indeted to F. A. Schwartzburg in St. Louis *Teacher*. It shows what must be the path we shal hav to tred.

"Jacob Grimm and his foloers adopted a sp. diferent from curent orthog. without attracting special notice for years. . . Their publica'ns increast; public opinion was drawn to it, and the why and wherefore of their innova'ns discust. In 1855, the educa'nal authoritis of Hanover took it up and decided on certn modifica'ns in sp., to be

adopted in all public schools. Wirtemberg took like cours in 1860, Austria, in 1861; Bavaria, in 1866; but unfortunately diferent states did not folo the same rules, and and varius system of authoritativ sp. wer growing up. A conference from all Gerinan states met in Dresden in 1872. Subsequently, under direc'n of Prussian Minister of Educa'n, Prof. Von Raumer drew up a scheme, printed privatly, sent to the varius governments for aproval, and submitted to a Ministerial Comi'n, consisting of Prof. R, 11 educa'nists, a printer, and a publisher. They met in 1876, and aproved the proposed scheme, with the modifical'ns. It has not been officialy adopted.

"Breitkopf and Hartel with 200 publishers comi'nd Dr. Sanders to propose some rule and a vocabulary of Reformd Ger. Sp. This roused Von Puttkamer, Prussian Minister of Educa'n, who put it into the hands of Dr. Wilmannz, and the later's scheme was made obligatory."

Since 1880 no further official action has been taken, chiefly because Puttkamer's apointment being political he is liable to be ousted on change of ministry, and his successor might find it if "too radical," so that it is tho't better to rest content *pro tem.* with haf a loaf rather than hav no bred. Besides Bismark is quite hostil to this as well as the introduc'n of Roman letters insted of their old Gothic shapes. What has been done has been rather in spite of his oposi'n—at any rate scarcely with his assent. The indefensibl oposi'n givn by sensles prejudice rather helps a good cause ultimately, tho it may retard for a time. Tho further progres has not been sanc'nd officialy, we need hardly say that ther is most activ and most scolarly ebulli'n going on. We hope to giv a *resumé* of that in future.

WELSH ORTHOGRAFY.

BY E. JONES, B.A., LIVERPOOL.

A *Times*' comisioner inquiring as to Tithes Agitation in Wales, riting to that paper, states that the proportion of literature in the vernacular, publishd and red by peopl of Wales, far exceeds the proportion of Eng. literature in demand by English peopl. This witness is tru. The fact has long been non by those acquainted with the Principality, and it has been recognized by Mr. Gladstone in public uterances more than once; but it comes as a revelation to the *Times* and most English readers. For teaching Welsh ther is no elaborat machinery of Scol Boards, aided by local rates and Government grants, with inspection and paraphernalia for teaching Eng.—most impcrfectly taut, as is generally admitted, after all. For teaching Welsh ther is no organization and no provision, except that for an our or so on

Sunday voluntary teachers teach children to read. Whence this devouring pasion for literature, this universal taste for reading among the Welsh? Varius ansers may be givn, but frends of Sp. Ref. wil apreciat that it is atributable above all to fonetic character of Welsh orthografy.

Educationists wud giv almost anything to see this taste for reading universaly difused among the mases in England. To this end efforts of filanthropists hav been directed for fifty years, and vast sums expended on elementary education, but, by general consent, the results ar far from satisfactory.

In Welsh the name of each leter expresses its *sound*—how diferent with English? We hear children taut, "Double you, aitch, eye, see, aitch—*which*." The Welshman is amused, nay astonisht, at such absurdity. Here is the Welsh alfabet with names as taut. Names ar identical with sounds as to vowels; sounds of consonants ar exprest in the names with a vowel before or after.

Leters.—a, b, c, ch, d, dc, e, f,
Names.—ah, bee, ek, * dee, ed, * eh, ev, *

Leters.—ff, g, ng, h, i, l, ll, m, n,
Names.—ef, eg, eng, hah, ee, el, * em, en,

Leters.—o, p, ph, r, s, t, th, u, w, y.
Names.—oh, pee, fee, er, ess, tee, ith, * oo, uh,

Lerning these symbols, which, with very slight exceptions, ar invariably associated with the same sounds, is the work of a few ours, and combining leters into syllabs and words comes easily with time and practice. The secret is, that attention of both teacher and scolar is releast from mecanical art of reading, and, at a very erly stage, the child's curiosity is excited as to *meaning* in what he reads; interest is awakend, and with ability to read, comes desire and taste for reading, and thirst for noledg, now that the key is masterd. This has created an entire nation of tho'tful readers. Varius experiments in teaching fonetic reading in erly stages of fonetic movement o't to be conclusiv as to advantages of the method, but here in Wales is a proof on a far larger scale, for *everybody can read*. The Welsh child feels no hesitation as to pron. of a strange word. He simply puts the leters together, and ther is no uncertnty about it. What a contrast to English!

Even to a stranger to the language, mere reading wud present litl difuculty, most leters having their prevailing sound in English. *Ch* stands for the gutural sound herd in German. I hav ofn herd it distinctly in Scotland and north of England, in such words as *night*; and even in Cheshire, *Broughton* is precisely *Brochton* among cuntry peopl. To most, the utterance of the sound is difficult, but *k* is near enuf to be intelligibl. *Ll* is another difficult sound, but *l*

is inteligibl to a nativ. The sound of *u* is difficult to distinguish from that of *i*, English *ee*.

It wud be the greatest blesing for education in England if orthograpy wer as perfect as in Welsh, altho in a few points the later is defectiv. The leter *v* is not found in Welsh alfabet, tho the sound is comon enuf. Singl *f* serves for this, as in Eng. word *of*; and *ff* represents *f*, or the hard sound, as in *off*. It apears that (before invention and adoption of *v*) *f* and *ff* wer used in erly English printing, and in MSS., in the same sens as now used in Welsh, of which practice *of* is sole-surviving relic. Another advantage in Welsh is that *accent* is almost invariably on last sylabl but one.

Perfect, comparatively speaking, tho Welsh orthog. is, ther is a movement for removal of anomalis. In alfabet above, *ff* and *ph* hav same sound, the later being used in concession to derivation. Two symbols for one sound ar needles redundancy; acordingly, some riters now adopt *v* as in English; and *f* for *ff* and *ph*, an important improvement. In "Cyvaill yr Aelwyd" (Frend of the Harth), a monthly, these improvements ar adopted, and doutles others wil folo.

How came benighted, isolated, and semi-barbarus Welsh (as self-complacent Englishmen wud say) to hav an orthograpy so superior? The anser o't to shame Englishmen for disgraceful condition of their orthograpy. From time immemorial, the Eisteddfod (pron., *ĭstedġvod*) has held periodical Congresses and Conferences of Bards and Literati, at which all maters of literature hav been discust, and among other maters orthograpy. From time to time, comitees hav been appointed to consider needful improvements in speling; as a rule, recomendations of these comitees wer adopted. They ar all in direction of fonetics. Tho the derivation theory has hamperd somewhat, *sound* has ultimatly governd *speling*.

NAMING LETERS.—To see need of fit names for some of our old leters, one need think of the 3 leters—*w*, *h*, *y*. Why, neither of them naturaly indicates the leter's use, as names of leters obviously shud. The name of *y* denotes the use of *w*, the name of *h* denotes *ch* in *church*, while that of *w* denotes no use at all. The name of *w* arose no dout from its consisting of 2 *v*'s united—*v* at that time being comonly calld *u*, and as this modern *u* came into use and took the name, for purpos of distinction being surnamed *peakt-u*, becaus it had, as it has yet, a *peakt botm*. That these 3 leters shud be calld *w*, *h* and *y* seems obvious, and while the change is going on the question may be wel considered whether all leters o't not to be named the same way, and become thus uniform in style of name, as they at length wil in use.—Valparaiso, Ind., *Vidēt*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JOINT RULES AND ROMAN VALUES.

SIR,—I admire yur anser to *Observer*. It is just and instructiv. It is very judicious t' at yu adopt the "the Five Rules" only and not "the Joint Rules," becaus 6th and 7th Rules ar very objectionabl, and their applica'n perplexing and contradictory to the profest purpos: Simplifica'n of sp. These two rules giv u a use in discord with the principl: "Roman values for vowel-signs."

C. W. KNUDSEN.

S. Norwalk, Conn.

[The rules refer to ar:

6.—For *o* having the sound of *u* in *but*, rite *u* in *above* (*abuv*), *dozen*, *some*, *tongue* (*tung*), and the like.

7.—Drop *o* from *ou* having the sound of *u*, as in *journal*, *nourish*, *trouble*, *rough* (*ruf*), *tough* (*tuf*), and the like.

Rule 6 is not included in Revised Sp.* Our rules may be construed so as to omit either *o* or *u* from *journal*, *trouble*, etc.]

*REVISED SPELING: OMIT uses leters. **CHANGE** *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, if sounded so.

SURNAMES.

SIR,—The irregularity in sp. is markt as to surnaries. Even our own simpl name has three aknowledgegd forms: Curzon, Curson, Carson. When ritn by peopl not always ignorant, who hav not met with it before, the variety is simply wonderful—Cusson, Casson, Kerson, Khersin, etc.—all which goes to sho that the ear is not a safe guide. Like evrything els worth noing, sp. has to be carefully studid. With sympathy for Am. Sp., I hope all changes wil be made in the interest of literature, and not of laziness.

S. A. CURZON.

Toronto.

DUDE (his hed out of cab window)—"Dwivah! dwivah! Wheaw aw you gow-ing?" DRIVER—"Shure, I couldn't make out yer orders, they were in such a quare language; so I just thawt ye wanted to go round the corner to the asylum for belated ijits that can't spake plane!"—*Grip*.

"BEAUROS & WAT NOTS FOR SALE" is a sign on a furniture shop at corner Agnes and Elizabeth streets.

—*Huf* is the way they pronounce the (im)proper name Hough.

SHE WANTS A SPRING SUIT.

The maiden has doffed her seal sacque,
For the bright days of spring have come
bacque,

And she wants papa's cheque,
Her person to decque,
If his funds will sustain the attacque.

—*Boston Courier*.