

# THE PYONEER OV SIMPLIFYD SPELING.

VOL. VI, No. 3. SEPTEMBER 1917. Prys 2d. pp33-48

[The Pyoneer was published in A5 size paper, 16pp with additional text on the colored cover. SSS membership was noted as being 2862. See [Noets and Neuz](#). That page also has an early example of a poem using words which should rhyme, but don't! See Noets and Neuz [Our Speling at See!](#)]

## Kontents.

[The Eksperiments with Simplifyd Speling](#). - [Dhe Latin Alfabet and English Speech](#). - [A Leter from West Africa](#). - [A Sujestion from India](#). - [Noets and Neuz](#). - [Pres Noetisez](#). - [Editorial Noet](#).

[Front cover is missing. [Inside back cover](#): Efficiency and Economy in Education.

[Outside back cover](#): The Ferst Reeder in Simplifyd Speling.]

PUBLISHT BY THE SIMPLIFYD SPELING SOSYETI, London.  
The traid suplyd by SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT, & CO., London

## THE EKSPERIMENTS WITH SIMPLIFYD SPELING.

[page 33 missing .....]

a test in S.S. diktaishon woz given. The persentij ov korekt werdz woz 84. The saim pasij, but in ordinari speling, woz then given tu the klaas siks munths ahed hoo had been taut oenli that speling. The persentij ov korekt werdz woz 54. The pasij woz nekst diktaited tu the klaas a yeer in advaans ov the S.S. klaas. The persentij in this kais woz 72. The valeu ov konsistent speling iz beyond dout.

The werk iz being kontineud this seshon with the *Second Reeder* in S.S.

The fakt that Mis Paten iz herself the author ov a seereez ov *Fonik Reederz* for the infant skool maiks her eksperiment and her opinionz thairon ov seupreem valeu.

Inkwyriz az tu theez eksperiments shood be adrest tu Mr. Robt. Jackson, Training Kolej, Dundee.

---

We hav given pryd ov plais tu Scotland, for it haz the kredit ov provyding the pyoneer skool.

But thingz ar mooving in England too. The Bord ov Edeukaishon haz, az our reederz noe, sankshond eksperiments in elementari skoolz, and we ar indeted stil ferther tu it for entrusting the seupervizhon ov theez eksperiments tu so eminent an inspektor az Mr. H. M. Richards.

The ferst English eksperiment woz begun on Mai 1 at the York Road Council School, Leeds, ov which Mr. Ezra Sykes, hoo haz long been a speling reformer, iz the hed maaster. Ryting tu us in the midel ov joon, he sez:

The werk iz maiking satisfaktori praegres. I am drauing up waul charts with simpel ilustraishonz, and the children ar aulredi begining tu reed eezi sentensez; that meenz we ar too or three munths ahed ov whot thai wood be dooing under normal speling. The teecherz wer not entheusiastik at ferst, az everithing woz so strainj tu them, but wun week woz sufisient tu remoov aul dout, and I must sai thai ar nou keen on the werk. The oenli piti iz that it must be stopt and a transizhon maid tu the reched oeld speling. In ordinari serkumstansez the children az yet wood hav dun *no speling*, but az an eksperiment, without menshoning such a horid werd az *speling* tu the children (hoo ar oenli for and fyv yeerz ov aij), the teecher sed: "Nou eu hav lernt aul the soundz and thair letterz, and eu kan drau them aul on eur blakbordz. Drau the sound ov eur naim."

[Mr. Sykes kwœets az egzaampelez ov the rezult: "maak, jon, lili, Mairiokinz (= Mary Hopkins), Tom, Joni, Jaimz, Hari, jauj, Persi."]

In ordinari speling theez children wood not hav reecht the stajj at which thai kood ryt thair naimz for anuther ten munths. Then thai kood œnli hav *kopid* whot the teecheer set for them. This rezult speeks for itself az tu the valeu ov S.S.

1. Without teling or sujestion, the chyld on its œn inishiaitiv diskuverz for itself.
2. No need tu wait until the chyld iz aibel tu memoryz mistikal kombinaishonz.

The children wer delyted when tœld hou wel thai had dun; *thai wont tu doo mor*, shoorli a far beter wai than waiting tu doo sumthing which thai did not understand, but which teecheer sed thai must doo. Simplifyd Speling tendz tu *development*, az opœzd tu the *kram* ov the œld speling.

In the midel ov August similar eksperiments wer started in for or fyv uther English tounz, about which we shal report in deu kors.

---

Our frend, Mr. J. Walker, hooz aktiviti in the kauz ov speling reform dezervz our unstinted admiraishon, sendz us the folœing egzaampelez ov diktaishon which he reseevd from an elementari-skool teecheer. The aij ov the children woz seven and a haaf tu ait yeez.

(a) *Jac* felt *veri proud* as he *waukt* the *dec* of his *farthers* ship. He *ment* to be a *kaptin* himself *sum day*, and of *caus* he *wonted veri* much to *lirn* all *erbowt* ships and the sea.

(b) *Jak* felt *veree proud* as he *walkt* the *dek* of his *farthir's* ship. He *ment* to be a *captin* himself *sum dai*, and of *kors* he *wonted veree* much to *lern al* about ships and the see.

The teecheer ov theez children remarkt: "Tu prevent theez 'erorz' (and thouzandz ov utherz) children wil hav tu spend a long tym memoryzing eech werd; thair ar no definit roolz for them tu folœ. I hav tu mark theez werdz az rong, yet thai sound lyk that tu the chyld, and nateurali the chyld feelz veri disapointed and dishartend at the bad rezults ov earnest eforts."

The "erorz" ar werth looking at; nœtis hou ofen theez children hav adopted the Simplifyd Speling form without ever having herd ov Simplifyd Speling.

Heer iz an ekstrakt from anuther chyld'z kompozishon (not diktaishon):

Ther fiermern is er veree brave man. He werks veree hard sumtims. I sor wun wonse neerli bernt too deth.

Unkonshusli a litel fonetishan!

# DHE LATIN ALFABET AND ENGLISH SPEECH.

By W. GUNDRY.

Dhaer iz not yet, and never haz been, a trueli English alfabet. Dhe so-kauld Ruenik leterz ov our remoet ansestorz wer defektiv and inadekwaet even for dhe rued inskripsionz ov dhe darkest aejez. Az suen az English woz seeriusli riten doun, dhe Latin alfabet, borœd from Keltik naeborz or Rœman misionariz, woz taeken az dhe vehikel ov its expresion. Dhaer woz no aulternativ dhen, for in dheez simbolz woz koucht aul dhe lerning ov dhe tym; nor haz eni seerius kompetitor ever arizen sins. Hens dhe Latin alfabet, widh œnli wun modifikaesion, haz bekum wun ov our nasional institeusionz; but it must be rememberd dhat it iz an aelien organizm, devyzd for a foren langwij, and œnli fited tu our œn by konstraent.

Dhe fundamental problem ov English speling mae, dhaerfor, be staeted dhus: Hou kan English speech be best represented by dhe Latin alfabet?

Dhe Latin alfabet, dho rytli so-kauld, woz not indijenus tu Latium, but taeken œver from dhe Aeolian Greeks ov Cumae. In maeking it dhaer œn, dhe Latins shoed no slaevish spirit ov irasional imitaesion. Such synz az were not needed for dhaer œn soundz dhae throe out, az Θ, Φ, Υ, Ζ, dho dhe tue laast wer aafterwardz reintrodeust for eus in Greek werdz œnli. Having no need ov X in its Greek meening, dhae transferd it tu a diferent sound, and dhe saim iz true aparentli ov dhe simbol F. Dhaer iz abundant evidens, tue, dhat dhae subsekwentli tvk gvd kaer ov dhaer alfabet, adapting it konstantli tu aultraesion in pronunsaesion. Fynding C and V duing dubel deuti, dhae invented dhe vaeriaesionz G and U tu remuev ambigeuitiz.

Gradeual chaenjez, az from *plourumoi* tu *plurimi*, mae be traest in inskripsionz. Cicero, az a peurist, wisht tu restor *pulcer* for *pulcher* and *exspecto* for *expecto*, and Augustus tryd tu bring in a neu form for dhe indefinit vouel in dhe midel ov *optumus*.

Varro roet a bvk, unhapili lost, on dhe seperat karakterz ov dhe alfabet. Such testimoni myt be multiplyd tu eni extent; dhe jeneral inferens iz dhat dhe Latinz wer maasterz ov dhaer alfabet, not slaevz tu it, and dhat dhe Latin alfabet woz fonetik for dhe Latin langwij.

Tu dhe later staetment dhaer iz sertainli wun larj and wel nœn exsepsion: Latin ryting maed no distinktion between vouelz dhat diferd œnli in kwontiti, az long and short formz ov dhe saem sound. Dhe Latin sau no reezon tu drau dhis distinktion, for in aul kaesez ov reeding and ryting in dhœz daez akwaentans widh dhe spoeken langwij woz pre-supœzd. On dhe hœl, dhe Latin alfabet wel dezervz its naem.

Dhe Anglo-Saxonz, in adopting dhe Latin alfabet, found it defektiv for dhaer œn speech. Dhaerfor dhae invented such difthongz az dhae needed (*eo* iz a keurius wun), and aded dhe Ruenik konsonants, Thorn, Wen, and dhe crost *D*. Dheez wer aafterwardz redeust by Anglo-Norman skrybz tu formz mor lyk dhe Latin, and ever sins dhe alfabet euzd for English haz been dhe Latin alfabet + *w*. Dhe Norman Invaezion aulso braut in dhe soft soundz ov *c* and *g*. Yet, til dhe tym ov Chaucer'z deth (1400), English speling woz reezonabli fonetik, and woz ment tu be so. Dhe author ov dhe *Ormulum* taeks kredit tu himself for dhe aukward devys ov denœting a short vouel by dubling dhe folœing konsonant.

Aafter 1400 folœd dhe darkest peeriod ov literateur and lerning. Gvd standards ov speeking and ryting wer lost. Pronunsaesion underwent a vyolent chaenj. Dhe long vouelz suferd a dislokaesion (*Lautverschiebung*), dhe short tvk mor œpen pozisionz. Dhe terminaesionz *e* and *en* fel awae by iregeular degreez; dhe neutral vouel woz developd. Dhe feu wvd-be pœets ov dhe tym, az if bewilderd, seem tu hav lost aul sens ov boeth meeter and speling.

Dhe Renaissance which swept awae barbarizm pord in a flud ov "lernerd" Latin werdz. Dheez wer suen asimilaeted tu English pronunsaesion, whyl dhae retaend dhaer orijinal formz in ryting, dhus maeking konfeuzion wers konfounded. Dhe erli printerz, hue dispœzd ov dhe kwestion ov dyalekts,

tvk litel heed ov speling. Dhae wer inkonsistent, eeven in wun paej, and when dhae agreed dhae tended tu stereotyp il-konsiderd formz. Konsiderabel freedom and latitude long prevaeld, a beter staet ov thingz dhan dhe irasional konvensionz ov dhe present dae. Shakespeare, it seemz, spelt hiz naem diferentli in Stratford and in London. At a much laeter tym Marlborough spelt veri diferentli from Addison.

If eni ykonoklaast iz out ov werk, he myt due wers dhan taek hiz hamer and smyt a bløe at dhe pedestal on which Boswell'z ydol standz. Samuel Johnson'z Diksionari set up an authoritaetiv speling. Nydher dhe tym nor dhe man woz fit for dhe taask. No peered sins dhe dark aejez haz been so defisient in imajnaesion and kreativ fakulti; Fonetiks and Komparativ Filoloji wer dhen unnøen syensez. Johnson himself, dho faerli akwaented widh Latin, had no nolej werth mension ov orijinal English or eni kindred langwij. Hiz intelekt woz at wuns pedantik and unsyentifik. He klaemd authoriti for hiz speling, yet konstruktet it on no definit prinsipel. Indeed, he profest a preferens for dhe formz ferther remuevd from ordinari pronunsiaesion, az "honour" raadher dhan "honor." Hiz ponderus repeutaesion karid konviksion amung hiz unenlytend kontemporariz, and dhe rezult woz not an orderd Kosmos, but Kaos petrifyd. Dhe Diksionari woz a moneument werdhi ov its aeje, a great werk in its dae; dhe blaem for our present kondision in speling rests raadher widh laeter jeneraesionz, which in syentifik tymz hav neglektet tu aply reezon in dhis partikeular department. Johnson'z speling aut tu be az obsolete az George II'z peruek.

Dhe vaeriaesionz sins dhat tym hav been feu, such az dhe dropping ov *k* at dhe end ov werdz lyk "music," dhe abandonment ov dhe long *s*, and ov *v* az a vouel.

A ruf veu ov dhe histori ov English speling dhus shoëz three lingwistik kataklizmz and wun ilkondisiond atemt at reduksion tu order; dhe rezulting staet iz deskrybd by Max Müller az a nasional dizaaster.

Dhe obstakelz tu reform ar much dhe saem az dhøez which hav stvd in dhe wae ov udher reformz dhat hav been saefli akomplisht and establisht in dhe paast, such az dhe introduksion ov raelwaez and dhe kuting ov dhe Suez Kanal amung meni udherz. Dheez ar dhe inershia ov dhe jeneral publik, dhe strength ov existing okeupaesion, dhe nasional akseptans ov konvension, and tu sum extent in dhis kaes dhe exaampel ov our neerest naebor amung langwijez, dhe French. Dhe man in dhe street kaerz for nun ov dheez thingz or supøezez dhat dhe chaenj iz not werth dhe disterbans; whaer pozesion iz nyn points ov dhe lau and justis dhe tenth, he thinks dhe establishment ov abstrakt ryts impraktikabel; he eeven imajinz dhat dhaer iz beuti in dhe øeld styl; dhe kazeual obzerver thinks dhat whot seemz tu hav grøen up ov itself iz dhe proper adaptaesion tu dhe envyronment, or he thinks dhat whot iz gvd for French, dhe øenli udher langwij he haz dhe slytest akwaentans widh, must be gvd for English.

Aul dheez opiniunz kum not from thinking, but from laezines ov mynd. No expert, søesial, filolojik, or edeukaesional, wvd subskryb tu eni ov dhem. Az such opozision haz been øeverkum in udher departments, so it mae be in dhis. Dhe ferst step iz by werk and rangling tu fynd a skeem dhat wil gain dhe aprueval ov aul kompetent reformerz, English and Amerikan, and tu dhis end I venteur tu kontribeut my øen sugestionz.

Dhair ar for konseevabel lynz along which a projekt ov reform myt run - tue syentifik and tue praktikal: (1) an ydeal euniversal alfabet for aul langwijez; (2) a syentifik skeem for English øenli; (3) dhe adaptaesion ov dhe Latin alfabet so far az it rekwyryz chaenj tu maek it adekwaet for our øen speech; (4) a moderaet reform, aksepting dhe existing alfabet, and øenli maeking its eus mor konsistent.

Tu dhe ferst tue dhaer iz dhe wun and dhe saem insueperabel objeksion. Dhe abnormaliti ov English amung dhe graet familiar langwijez iz remarkabel, az wil apeer laeter. Eeven such simpel soundz az dhe vouelz ov "hat, hot, hut" ar skaersli tu be found agen in Europ. A syentifik alfabet, whedher euniversal or not, wvd rekwyry for English at leest twelv neu leterz, and wvd braek awae uterli from dhe Latin alfabet, which haz been its lyn in dhe paast, widh which, tue, it haz distinkt, dho imperfekt, analojiz. Dhis renderz such a skeem impraktikabel, dho it myt hav graet interest

filolojikali.

A skeem ov dhe laast kynd, konfyning itself tu the present alfabet, maeking konsistensi its motø, disregarding filolojikali konsideraesionz and foren eusajez, wvd nateurali meet widh les opozision. Such, indeed, iz dhe dezyn ov dhe S.S.S. It iz not kwyt eezi ov akomplishment, az dhe S.S.S. noez, and dhe rezult kvd not be akseptabet tu dhe experts ov dhe present or tu the jeneral gvd sens ov mor ileumind jeneraesionz, dhat we trust wil sueperseed our øen wilfvil darknes.

Supøez our øen langwij had never yet been riten or printed, and we wer starting nou tu maek a skeem for duing so, hou shvd we proseed? Obviusli we shvd taek dhe Latin alfabet euzd by our naeborz, and euz it az far az it wvd extend. It wvd kuver perhaps seven-aetths ov dhe høl feeld, but wvd be found inkompetent in its existing staet for the remaender. We shvd dhen be exaktli at dhe saem staej az dhe Latinz and Anglo-Saxonz wer when dhae ferst adopted dhe alfabet. Dhae aded slytli tu dhe alfabet and udherwyz aulterd it til it servd dhaer perpos efisientli. It iz a konspikueus instans ov dhe poverti ov our ydeaz and dhe fosilyzd staet ov our intelekt dhat we kan not due whot dhe Anglo-Saxonz did a thouzand, and dhe Latinz mor dhan tue thouzand, yeez agøe. We ourselvz due the saem when we transliteraet langwijez lyk Arabik or when we redeus tu ryting langwijez dhat hav never been riten befor. Dhe werk ov misionariz in dhe later respekt iz veri interesting. In the Zulu langwij, for exaampel, *c*, *q*, and *x*, unneeded in our øen sens, ar euzd tu represent sertain "kliks" kwyt foren tu our eerz. Øenli in deeling widh our øen alfabet we ar paralyzd. Ydher we habiteuali mistaek dhe meenz for dhe end or dhe "Lues Boswelliana" haz been transmited tu us from our ansestorz. Exaampelz ov dhe saem præses - dhe adaptaesion ov a foren alfabet - ar found in meni langwijez. Koptik, for instans, iz exprest in Greek formz widh dhe adision ov for neu karakterz. Tu maek dhe Greek alfabet adekwaet for Rusian three synz hav been rejekted and no les than therteen aded. Spanish, wun ov dhe best spelt langwijez, haz, lyk our øen, aulwaez euzd dhe Latin alfabet, but it haz, widh reezon, aded tu it *ch*, *ll*, *j* (= *kh*), and haz formd difthongz freeli. Dhe aksents in French ar ov de saim naeteur - dhat iz, deliberaet adisionz.

Dhaer iz, dhaerfor, konsiderabel justifikaesion for beleeving dhat dhe ydeal English alfabet for praktikal eus wvd be dhe Latin alfabet in dhe maen, widh such adisionz and modifikaesionz az dhe pekeuliaritiz ov our speech rekwyri. Eeven if dhe ydeal iz held tu be impraktikabel dhruue dhe waet ov dhe unreezonabel opozision dhat it wvd arouz, it wil serv az a sugestiv gyd and a kontroel tu eni mor moderaet skeem. It iz werth whyl, konsekwentli, tu investigaet dhe condisionz, and so tu diskuver whot modifikaesion ov dhe Latin alfabet wvd maek it thuroli fit tu reprezent English speech. I think it wil be found dhat dhe rezult wvd not be such a vyolent upheeval az myt be supøezd by dhøez hue ar amaezd at dhe present kaos.

Nateurali, dhe ferst step in dhe soleusion ov such a problem iz a syd-by-syd komparison ov its tue faktorz: dhe given Latin simbolz and dhe given English soundz. But in a breef artikel lyk dhe present it iz not nesasari tu deel at such length widh dhe konsonants. Dhe faults ov dhe konsonants, dho graet, ar simpel, and admit ov redi remediz. Such ar dhe notorius *gh*, dhe dubel eusez ov *c*, *g*, and *s*, dhe terminaesion *-tion*, perhaps the redundansi ov *q* and *x*. Aul akteual konsonantal soundz ar aulredi represented in ryting, exsept *dh* and *zh*, for which formz ar eezili sugested by dhe analoji ov *ch*, *sh*, *th*.

Far udherwyz standz dhe kaes ov dhe vouelz, which iz extensiv and veri komplikaeted. It demaandz a kompleet and serching inkwyri, begining widh a kaerful komparison ov dhe tue elements. Dhe Latin vouel-skeem iz simpel:

Short - *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*.

Long - dhe saem fyv lengthend.

Difthongz (in dhe Klasikal peeriod) - *ae*, *au*, *eu*, *øe*.

Dhe pronunsiaesion ov dhe simpel soundz iz familiar tu eni wun hue haz dhe slytest akwaentans widh eni European langwij outsyd English. Dhe English vouel-soundz mae be represented wuns mor by dhe øeld formeula:

Short - 1, pat; 2, pet; 3, pit; 4, pot; 5, put; 6, but.  
 Long - 7, bait; 8, beat; 9, bite; 10, boet; 11, boot.  
 Hevi - 12, bath; 13, taut; 14, toil; 15, mute; 16, pout.

Dhaer ar aulso tue mor soundz dhat oker ænli befor a *stopt r*, i.e. not folœd by a vouel - 17, air; 18, stir. Dhe difthong, 15, iz aulso found in unaksented silabelz, as 19, "impudent."

Several obzervaesionz naturelali folœe dhis komarison.

1. Dhe Latin sistem iz simpel, dhe English veri komplikaeted.
2. Ov short prymary vouelz dhe Latin haz fyv, dhe English six.
3. Dhe long English vouelz ar often ov dhe saem valeu az dhe Latin, but dhe short ar not. Ænli 2 and 5 seem tu be exaktli ekwivalent.
4. Why! it iz not posibel tu be exactli sertain ov dhe sound ov (the Latin difthongz, it iz saef tu sae dhat at leest aet English vouel soundz ar not represented in Latin.
5. Dhe long and short English vouelz due not korespond, but difer in kwoliti az wel az in kwontiti. Dhe long and short eus ov dhe difthong *eu*, 15 and 19, iz dhe ænli instans ov a true paer.
6. Dhair is, houeever, a regeular praktikal korespondens found when vouelz ar lengthend or shortend for formativ perpozez, az shoen by dhe folœing exaampelz:-

Nature	Elizabeth	Vine	Tone
Natural	Elizabethan	Vineyard	Tonic

Dhe Amerikan reformerz seem, wun and aul, tu have mist dhis point.

Sertain inferensez mae nou be draun:

- (a) When Latin synz are euzd in English, it must not be pretended dhat dhaer denœtaesion iz aulwaez dhe saem az in Latin. Exaampel: "hat, hit."
- (b) Dhe Latin eusij haz, houeever, a lejitimaet negativ influens. For instans, dhe syn *a* mae not be euzd for a sound in dhe *u* sfeer.
- (c) Dhe pekeuliar soundz folœed by *r* (stopt) ar determind by dhe *r*, and dhaerfor due not rekwyrr seperaet nœtaesion. Dhe long and short *eu* soundz mae aulso be left widh wun syn between dhem, az dhe aksent givz dhe kwontiti.
- (d) Eeven so dhaer remaen sixteen soundz tu be represented by fyv synz. In dhis disproporsion it iz imposibel tu avoid rekors tu distinktiv marks (dyakritiks) or konvensional difthongz (dygraafs). Dygraafs, dho les syentifik, ar mor praktikal dhan dyakritiks in ryting, printing, and typing. It iz posibel aulso tu euz dhe saem syn boeth az konsonant and vouel; *y* iz partikeularli suetabel for dhe perpos. Sum kombinaesionz ov vouelz kan not be euzd az dygraafs, bekoz dhae ar aulso found in kombinaesion but unfeuzd, az *e-a* in "re-al, perme-ate." Dhœz dhat remaen ar enuf tu giv reprezentaesionz ov aul dhe long and difthongal soundz. Dhis, dho unsyentifik, seemz a beter aulternativ dhan dhe kreaesion ov a duzen neu formz or a multiplisiti ov aksents. If aksents ar euzd, it must be spaeringli, sertainli not mor dhan in French.
- (e) Dhe korespondens nœtist in Obz. 5 dezervz a konsistent nœtaesion. *E* aded to dhe short vouel iz veri suetabel for dhe perpos, heer not baering its euzeual valeu, but marking dhe korespondens between long and short. *le* ænli being diskwolifyd az a dygraaf, *y* mae wel step in tu taek its plaes. Dhis givz in dhe sekond lyn:  
 baet, beet, byt, bœt, buet.  
 Dhe *ai* faevord by dhe Amerikans in plaes ov *y* iz les distinktiv for reeding.
- (f) Dhe cheef difikulti (Obz. 2), dhat ov representing six short simpel vouelz by fyv simpel leterz stil remaenz, and seemz at ferst syt insouleubel, but it haz tu be faest, not evaeded by subterfeuj. Heer nydher dyakritik nor dygraaf avaelz, for dheez by dhaer naeteur imply long or komplikaeted soundz.

On dhe prinsipel adopted by dhe S.S.S., dhat ov introdeusing no neu synz, ænli wun soleusion iz posibel, dhat iz tu euz a konsonantal syn for a vouel aulso, az iz sujested for *y* abuv. I hav propœzd *v* for dhis perpos, plaesing it for dhe *put* vouel (5).

Mr. S. Bond at wun tym wisht tu euz *x* for dhe "neutral" (6). Mor rigorus lojik heer imperativli demaandz a neu form for dhe neutral vouel, dhus seting *u* free for its proper funksion. In seeking wun, dhe reformer for wuns fyndz a pees ov gvd forteun in hiz paath. Az dhe neutral vouel iz in aulmøst aul kaesez a development ov *u*, and iz stil in sum dyalekts konfeuzd widh it, it iz aproepriaet dhat it shvd be represented by sum syn rezembling it, but distinkt from it. Tue formz for *u* ar aulredi rekognyzd, naemli *U* and *u*. If *U* iz euzd booth larj and smaull, dhe former wil serv for dhe neutral (6), dhe later for dhe orijinal *u* (5). Dhus we print "put, bUt, under" (5 duz not oker inishali); shuerli a simpel devys for dhe graet werk it efisientli akomplishez. In ryting, dhe form *U* iz unsuetabel, but several modifikaesionz ar eezili sujested. It wvd aulso be konveenient, dho by no meenz so nesesari az in dhe kaes ov dhe neutral vouel, tu emploi dhe tue formz ov *a* for 1 and 12: dhus "pat, pAth."

Dhe difthong ov 15 and 19 myt aulso klaem a seperaet form. An inverted *m*, widh sum modifikaesion in ryting, seemz tu sujest itself. Or, if an aksent iz admisibel, dhe form, *ú*, myt okeupy dhis plaes. On dhe udher band, *eu* iz a gvd dygraaf. Dhe form, *au*, shvd be shunted tu 16, and *ao*, aulredi euzd in foren werks for teeching English, shvd taek its plaes at 13.

Udher sekondari kwestionz ar meni, but hardli dezerv fvl diskusion in an atemt tu lae doun dhe maen lynz, widh which dhae wvd not interfeer, houevar dhae ar desyded, Amungst dhem ar:

Dhe stop *r* silabelz aulredi nøetist in THE PYONEER.

Dhe *-tion* terminaesion, for which *-sion* apeerz a faer kompromyz, widh *-zion* pronounst soft, az in vizion.

Dhe eus ov dhe crost D and similar formz.

Dhe dubling (or not) ov konsonants in kompoundz: "un-natural, real-li."

Dhe jeneral sumari ov dhe vouelz mae be given by re-ryting dhe formeula:

- 1, pat; 2, pet; 3, pit; 4, pot; 5, put; 6, bUt.
- 7, baet; 8, beet; 9, byt; 10, bæet; 11, buet.
- 12, bath; 13, taot; 14, toil; 15, meut or mút; 16, paut.
- 17, aer; 18, ster; 19, impeudent or impúdent.

Such a skeem az dhis, dho it mae leev an anomali heer and dhaer, wvd bring English up tu dhe level ov dhe best spelt langwijez, such az Spanish, Italian, and Arabik, az neerli az dhe abnormal karakter ov English soundz wil permit.

Dhe propøezd skeem mae be ilustraeted by the foløeing kwøetaesionz from Tennyson. Dhae kontaan aul dhe vouel soundz:-

O mUdher Ida, meni-fauntaend Ida,  
Deer mUdher Ida, harken aer I dy.  
Heer me, O Erth, heer me, O Hilz, O Kaevez,  
Dhat hauz dhe køeld kraund snaek. O mauntaen bruks,  
I am dhe daoter ov a river-god:  
Heer me, for I wil speek and bild Up aul.

My sorøe widh my song, az yonder waolz  
Røez sløeli tu a meuzik sløeli breedhd,  
A klaud dhat gadherd shaep; for it mae be  
Dhat, whyl I speak ov it, a litel whyl  
My hart mae wonder from its deeper wøe.

BUt from a sløep  
Dhat ran bluembryt intu dhe Atlantik blue,  
Beneeth a hyland leening daun a waet  
Ov klifs, and zøend beløe widh seedarshaed,  
Kaem voisez, lyk dhe voisez in a dreem,  
Kontinúus, til he reecht dhe auter see.

## A LETTER FROM WEST AFRICA.

It seems to me that the only thing that prevents the English language from being the language of the world is the difficulty caused by the spelling. Think what this means. It means that in order to know the pronunciation of any written word somebody who knows that word and its spelling must be consulted; and also, conversely, before any word can be written, a consultation has to be held on what amounts to usual custom derived from heaven knows what tradition.

It would be interesting to know how far "pidgin-English" has captured the markets of the world. A map showing the extent of this would surprise many at home, and the idioms of the language, as written by R. L. Stevenson in his Pacific stories, are wonderfully like those spoken in West Africa, which shows that the English language in native mouths tends to take a certain form, and to adapt itself to native idiom. Were an easy phonetic system available, to lead those who use "pidgin-English" into more accurate channels of speech, English would swamp the markets of the world.

In order to illustrate my point I would like to tell you a story of a little West African boy. In 1908, a small Yoruba child of nine or ten attached himself to my household as a "small boy." His duties were to wash up plates and dishes, to run errands, and to do all kinds of odd jobs about the house. The lad interested me, and more for my own amusement than anything else, I began to teach him the alphabet. I got out the little capital letters on square bits of cardboard that used to be used in a game now, I believe, extinct, called "Word-making, word-taking." The boy quickly mastered the capital letters, then the small letters, then the written capitals and small letters. After this I began to teach him to spell the simple words, "cat, dog, bat, rat," and so on; but very soon I found the work, that up to now had been pleasurable, become distinctly irksome and uninteresting, and the lessons that had begun as a game were dropped. The boy felt that he was "up against it," and no wonder.

Soon after this I went home on leave, and the boy returned to his home, where he found a great impetus awaiting him in that he could read and write his own language. There he found books in his own tongue, phonetically written by missionaries, and the words spelled themselves - e.g. Nigbati was spelt "Ni-i-gbi-ā-ti-i" (i=ī). He began reading his own native books, and writing to his friends, and on my return to West Africa. I found an increased keenness to master English.

The boy is still at his studies; the nine years of work have taught him, perhaps, to spell 1,000 words, after much labour, cheerfully undertaken in the hopes of getting on.

I think this true story is better left here without comment on the irony of it all, but, if I may be allowed to do so, I should like to suggest fresh fields and pastures new for THE PYONEER. Why should not catalogues for West Africa, China, the Pacific Islands be printed in the phonetic type? Why should you not try to follow the Pyoneers of Empire - the trader and the missionary?

I hope, Sir, you will forgive the inordinate length of this letter from one who is not yet a member of your Society; but it appears to me useless to talk to the people in England. They live so near to certain things that they cannot see them. Spread your wings and capture the markets of the world, and the educational value of your work will react on the people at home.

T. F. G. MAYER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Freetown, Sierra Leone. West African Medical Service.



## A SUGGESTION FROM INDIA.

It sometimes occurs to me, Why should we have the unnecessary luxury of two sets of letters, capital and small? There are so many other languages - for instance, all the Indian languages - which have never felt the necessity for such a double set, and they do not seem to have been in any way the worse for it. Moreover, in phonetic transcriptions of English itself, capital letters have been discarded, and yet they have not been missed. Therefore it is quite possible, as it appears to me, to complete the English alphabet by having one of the two sets as the basis, and eking it out with the superfluous types of the other.

I think the small set has a decided advantage over the capital set. For in every printing press the number of small letters is much larger than the number of capital letters. Moreover, since we are accustomed to see more small letters than capital ones on a printed page (as well as on a page of handwriting), the principle of proceeding along the line of least resistance favours the former. If care is taken that the sizes of the letters (capital and small) used in printing is the same, the aesthetic beauty of the printed page (or of a page of handwriting) need not be lessened.

I may say that this scheme satisfies many of the conditions laid down in the *Proposals for a Simplified Spelling of the English Language*, by Prof. Walter Ripman and Mr. William Archer. It is phonetic. It does not involve the introduction of new symbols nor any diacritics. It makes each symbol self-contained. It considerably economizes the use of material (paper, types, &c.) - an advantage not to be found in any other scheme. It can be so adapted as to make allowance for the existing divergences of pronunciation, though it is absolutely necessary, from my point of view, to have a standard pronunciation, and perhaps the sooner the better. The only drawback seems to be that new sounds have to be associated with the capital letters rather arbitrarily. But this, after all, is not a great matter. If it is once remembered that capital letters are banished, their recall under other sounds will present no difficulty. If the symbols of the International Phonetic Association, such as æ, ^, ε, θ, and ð are not objected to, why should there be any objection to representing those sounds by A, U, E, T, and D?

From what has been said above it will be readily seen that printing presses, typewriters, and other interests are not at all affected, though a slight readjustment within a very limited area may be necessary. The telegraphic code does not require more than a simple device to show whether the letters telegraphed are capital or small-sounds, of course, being different in either case.

I shall now try to indicate how the scheme can be worked out. For my part I should like a drastic measure; but, to conciliate those who may not go so far with me, I shall lay down the following scheme for their consideration. I count forty-four (including *tsh* and *dzh*) sounds in Southern English, and, as I have said, I should prefer to have forty-four symbols to represent them. If the eight diphthongs, however, are not individually represented, and if the five long vowels are represented by doubling the corresponding short sounds, and if *tsh* and *dzh* are resolved into their component parts, there are only thirty-two sounds for which we have to find suitable symbols.

Letters *b, d, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, y,* and *z* (seventeen in number) may retain their present values: *a, e, i, o,* and *u* may have the values they are given in the International Phonetic Association scheme. This leaves but ten sounds without corresponding symbols - the five vowels (ε, æ, ə, ^, and ɔ) and the five consonants (θ, ð, ʃ, ʒ, and η). The selection of symbols for these sounds has to be more or less arbitrary. With some diffidence, therefore, I suggest the following:-

ε = E	θ = T
æ = A	ð = D
ə = R	ʃ = C or c
^ = U	ʒ = J or j
ɔ = X or x	η = Q or q [or N]

The following two nonsense sentences contain all the forty-four English sounds I have referred to, each occurring but once. For the sake of convenience I here pronounce "for" as "fɔ̃," "of" as "ɔṽ," and "the" as "ðĩ."

*One poor room here for eight azure air-boys!  
I charge you, Earl, go think of the sow-shed.*

The above sentence will appear as

wUn pUR rum hiR fxx eit AjR ER-bxiz!  
ai tcaadj yuu, RRI, gou Tiqk xv Dii sau-ced.

As has been indicated above, I do not claim any finality to the scheme, and I wish to be understood as making a suggestion, which I hope will be worthy of serious consideration.

T. A. RAMAIVA.

## NOETS AND NEUZ.

The membership ov the Sosyeti nou numbers 2862.

### Our Speling at See!

From "Ashore and Afloat" we taik the folœing lynz:-

"When the English tongue we speak,  
Why is 'break' not rhymed with 'freak'?  
Will you tell me why it's true  
We say 'sew,' but likewise 'few';  
And the maker of a verse  
Cannot cap his 'horse' with 'worse'?  
'Beard' sounds not the same as 'heard';  
'Cord' is different from 'word'  
'Cow' is 'cow,' but 'low' is 'low';  
'Shoe' is never rhymed with 'foe.'  
Think of 'hose' and 'dose' and 'lose';  
And of 'goose' and think of 'choose.'  
Think of 'comb' and 'tomb' and 'bomb'  
'Doll' and 'roll' and 'home' and 'some.'  
And since 'pay' is rhymed with 'say.'  
Why not 'paid' with 'said,' I pray?  
We have 'blood' and 'food' and 'good';  
'Mould' is not pronounced as 'could.'  
Wherefore 'done,' but 'gone' and 'lone'?  
Is there any reason known?  
And, in short, it seems to me  
Sound and letters disagree."

---

### Whot "Child Study" thinks ov "Braiking the Spel."

"This iz the best ov the pamflets so far iseud by this indefatigabel propagandist sosyeti. The Maaster ov Euniversity Kolej, Oxford, kontribeuts a wyz prefais; the kais for chainj iz staited with restraint; kritisizmz ar aanserd with a larjer shair ov sweet reezonabelnes than sumtymz karakteryzez such replyz; and the propœzd skeem iz kairfooli eksplained. We mai graant that much tym wood be saivd, beter speech wood be promœted, and the lykelihood ov English bekuming the dominant langwij ov the werld wood be inkreest, by the adopshon ov such a sistem - the problem remainz ov arouzing sufishment dryving fors tu kauz the prezent jeneraishon tu undergœ a sertin inkonveeniens that the nekst jeneraishon mai profit."

---

### **Benjamin Franklin az a suporter ov Speling Reform.**

In a leter tu a Mrz. Jane Mewny, daited Philadelplia, July 4, 1786, Benjamin Franklin roet: You need not be concerned, in writing to me, about your bad spelling, for in my opinion, as our alphabet stands, the bad spelling, or what is called so, is generally the best, as conforming to the sound of the letters and of the words. To give you an instance.

A gentleman received a letter in which were these words: "Not finding Brown at hom, I delivered your meseg to his yf." The gentleman, finding it bad spelling, and therefore not very intelligible, called his lady to help him read it. Between them they picked out the meaning of all but the yf, which they could not understand. The lady proposed calling her chambermaid, "because Betty," says she, "has the best knack at reading bad spelling of anyone I know." Betty came, and was surprised that neither sir nor madam could tell what yf was. "Why," says she, "yf spells 'wife'; what else can it spell?" And, indeed, it is a much better, as well as shorter, method of spelling "wife" than *doubleyou, í, ef, e*, which in reality spells "doubleyifey." - Bigelow: *Autobiography of Franklin*.

---

### **Denyd the Doktrin ov Gravitaishon.**

Dr. Guthrie relaits a stori ov Mr. Wilson, an œld klerjiman ov the parish ov Abernyte, hoo woz no beleever in Ser Isaac Newton. He stoutli denyd the doktrin ov gravitaishon, and, being a devout, good man, much interested in mishonz tu the heethenz, bewald the erorz ov Dr. Duff, the East Indian mishonari.

"He iz taiking kwyt a rong kors. He iz endeavoring tu subvert Hinduizm by syens, faulsli so kauld - a filosofi az eroenius az the doktrinz ov Brahminizm - and the fulkrum by which he werks iz Ser Isaac Newton'z doktrin ov gravitaishon."

"But shoorli, Mr. Wilson," aaskt Dr. Guthrie, "eu beleev in the doktrin ov gravitaishon?"

"*Sertinli not!*" he replyd; and tu my grait amaizment went intu a long eksplanaishon ov its feutiliti. Faining haaf beleef in Mr. Wilson'z argeuments, Dr. Guthrie aaskt him "hou it woz that the inhabitants on the opozit syd ov the erth stuk on, and did not faul with thair hedz dounwerdz for ever and ever intu boundles spais?"

"Wel, Ser, that duz *apeer a difikulti*; but it iz tu be akouted for in sum such wai az a fenomenon we ar familiar with at hœm -- that thai keep on just az the flyz doo, hoo, with thair *baks downwerdz* and thair *feet upwerdz* az eu see them, wauk along the seeling ov the room!"

Az we laaf at Mr. Wilson tudai, another jeneraishon wil laaf at Dr. Trench and hiz ydeaz regarding English speling and etimoliji.

-M. DRUMMOND.

---

### **A Good Egzaampeel.**

Thair iz a "Simpler Spelling Society of the North Central States" (U.S.A.). Its Prezident iz Dr. Nathaniel Butler, Profesor ov Edeukaishon in the Euniversiti ov Chicago; its Vys-Prezident iz Dr. E. J. James, Prezident ov the Euniversiti ov Illinois; and its Sekretari iz Mr. E. O. Vaile, a reformer tu hooz keennes and entheuziazm we pai willing tribut, tho we hav not aulwaiz been aibel tu subskryb tu hiz veuz regarding the N.E.A. alfabet. We lern from a serkeular leter iseud by the uthar S.S.S. that the sum ov too thousand dolarz haz been kolekted for the printing ov fonetik primerz.

We ov the English S.S.S. hav spent a good deel on the printing ov our *Ferst Reeder*, and *The Sekond Reeder* iz neering publikaishon, and wil hav tu be paid for. Wil sumwun send us too thousand dolarz, or eeven too dolarz?

---

### **It's so Simpel!**

"Wun keurius argeument in faivor ov the prezent speling iz that, if our tradishonal speling iz bad for Anglo-Saxonz, it iz good for forinerz, bekauz for them it iz so eezi, so nateural, so lyk thair oen! For wun klaas ov peepel, then, our speling iz eezi, and thai aut not tu maik eni mistaiks. Good. Iz it so? Deuring my werk on Optez [Mr. Bond'z internashional langwij] I hav been ameuzd tu obzerv in forin vokabeulariz by eminent forin skolarz the folcøing spelingz:- 'Saft (=soft), slobe (=slope), whrite, wett, remaine, horsback, goos, neverhelles, admitt, walley, pourchase, propell, lisense,' ets. The mœst ameuzing iz for 'paddle' 'dabble,' and for 'lightning' 'tunder.'"

-SIDNI BOND.

---

### **Remember this.**

"Everi neu trooth must, ov nesesiti be, in the ferst instans, konfynd tu a smaul minoriti. If eniwun konsider it hiz deuti tu promulgait it, and if it be wun which opœzez the jeneral kurent ov opinion, on materz held saikred and improper for diskushon, he must be prepaired for oblokwi and persekeushon eevn tho hiz oen kondukt mai hav been free from akrimoni and unnesesari wormth."

-From *Man, Social and Moral*, by GEORGE SPARKES.

---

### **The Eusfool U.**

Thair iz an interesting poester outsyd a restaurant in Piccadilly giving the folcøing advys:-

Let the menU beat the U men.  
If U fast the U shark U beat.  
The U shark beats U if U feast.

Thair ar several pikteurz round the pœster shoeing submareenz, shaipt lyk sharks, torpeedøeing ships.

---

### **NEU MEMBERZ.**

[address details have been omitted.]

#### *Aneual Memberz.*

*Misez* E. L. Hudson, B.A., Croydon.  
Edith Law, M.A., Dundee.  
Helen Law, M.A., Dundee.  
Edith Luke, M.A., Dundee.  
Margaret Newall, Wimbledon.

*Mesrs.* E. Anderson, Birmingham.  
G. W. Haines, London.  
John Brown Ayrshire.  
G. A. S. Oliver, Nottingham.  
Walter Francis Westbrook, London.

#### *Canadian Braanch.*

*Prins.* A. B. Cooper, B.A., Canada.  
A. Pearson, B.A., Canada.

#### *Indian Branch.*

*Mesrz.* V. Kesava Rao, Mrs. A. U. N. India.  
A. Ramaiya, India.

---

## **PRES NŌETISEZ.**

*Joon, Jooli, and August.*

ARTIKELZ in faivor ov speling reform wer given prominens in: Daily Graphic, Education, Indiaman, Journal of Education, Ulster Guardian.

LETERZ wormli advokaiting reform wer printed in: Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald (2 leterz), Barry Dock News, Education Authorities Gazette, Liverpool Journal of Commerce, Liverpool Journal of Nursing, Newcastle Daily Journal (2 leterz), North Mail, Schoolmaster (2 leterz), Times Educational Supplement (10 leterz), Yorkshire Post.

FERTHER jenerus reveuz ov *Breaking the Spell* (4d. net), reesentli publisht by the Sosyeti. apeerd in: Aberdeen Daily Journal, A. M. A., Athenaeum, Educational Times, Teachers' Times.

SIMPATHETIK REFERENSEZ tu speling reform wer obzervd in: Barry Dock News, Globe, Newspaper World.

*An English Pronouncing Dictionary*, by Daniel Jones, M.A., woz reveud at length in the Saturday Review.

---

## **EDITORIAL NŌET.**

It haz been desyded tu publish THE PYONEER kworterli until pees iz restord.

THE PYONEER iz sent graitis tu aul Memberz ov the Simplifyd Speling Sosyeti. The aneual subskripshon for Asœshiait Memberz iz a minimum ov wun shiling, that for Aktiv Memberz a minimum ov fyv shilingz. Mor muni menz mor pouer tu kari on the kampain.

Reederz ar erjd tu aply for leeflets seting forth the aimz ov the Sosyeti. Theez and aul uther informaishon wil be gladli sent by the Sekretari ov the Simplifyd Speling Sosyeti, London.

[The front cover is missing, but probably has the Officers and Committee members.]

Inside back cover:

Among your friends and acquaintances there are thinking people who care for

### **Efficiency and Economy in Education**

*YOU SHOULD ASK THEM*

*whether any of the following objections to a reform of the spelling have occurred to them:*

- 1. It would interfere with the growth of the language and obscure the derivation of words.
- 2. To give the same spelling to such words as *right*, *write*, and *rite* would lead to confusion.
- 3. A spelling according to the sounds assumes the existence of the standard speech, which we do not possess.
- 4. The language constantly changes, and a spelling in accordance with the sounds would be always changing, which would be intolerable.
- 5. The present spelling is beautiful, and any change would make it ugly.

*YOU SHOULD ASK THEM*

*whether they have realised the following advantages  
that would result from the adoption of a rational spelling:*

- A 1. Much of the child's brief education time would be saved.  
A 2. Spellings would be taught in a reasonable way.  
A 3. The teaching of our language and literature would be improved; other school subjects would also benefit.  
A 4. The English language would spread rapidly throughout the empire, and might become the language for universal intercourse.

*YOU SHOULD ANSWER THEM*

*by using the arguments that by this time are doubtless familiar to you; or, if you prefer it, send a postcard to the Assistant Secretary, S.S.S., London, asking for one or all of the pamphlets in our Objections Series (O1 - O5) and our Advantages Series (A1 - A4), which deal briefly but convincingly with all the points that have been enumerated.*

On the outside of the back cover:

THE FERST REEDER IN SIMPLIFYD SPELING STANDZ FOR PEURITI OV SPEECH.

For stryking rezults in teeching reeding tu yung children euz

**THE FERST REEDER IN SIMPLIFYD SPELING.**

The sekond edishon iz the rezult ov an eksperiment in a Scottish Skool, whair children hoo wer taut for TEN munths from the Reeder and for FOR munths in ordinari speling red and spelt az wel az children hoo for NYNTEEN munths had been taut on konvenshonal lynz œnli.

A KLEER AND PRESYS ENUNSHIAISHON iz the rezult ov the speech training provyded by the FERST REEDER.

---

PRŒZ AND PŒEMZ. PRYS 6d. EECH.

ORDER from the Simplifyd Speling Sosyeti, London.

---

"We hav peroozd with much keuriositi and interest 'A Ferst Reeder in Simplifyd Speling,' publisht by the Simplifyd Speling Sosyeti and we konfes we ar konsiderabli imprest with the merits ov 'this litel book, prepaired for children hoo ar just beginning tu reed books.' The introdukshon of the book intu skoolz seemz wel werth eksperiment."

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

---

Redeust termz tu teechers hoo uez the book in klaasez.

---

C.F. Hodgson & Son, Printerz, London.