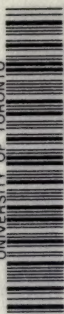


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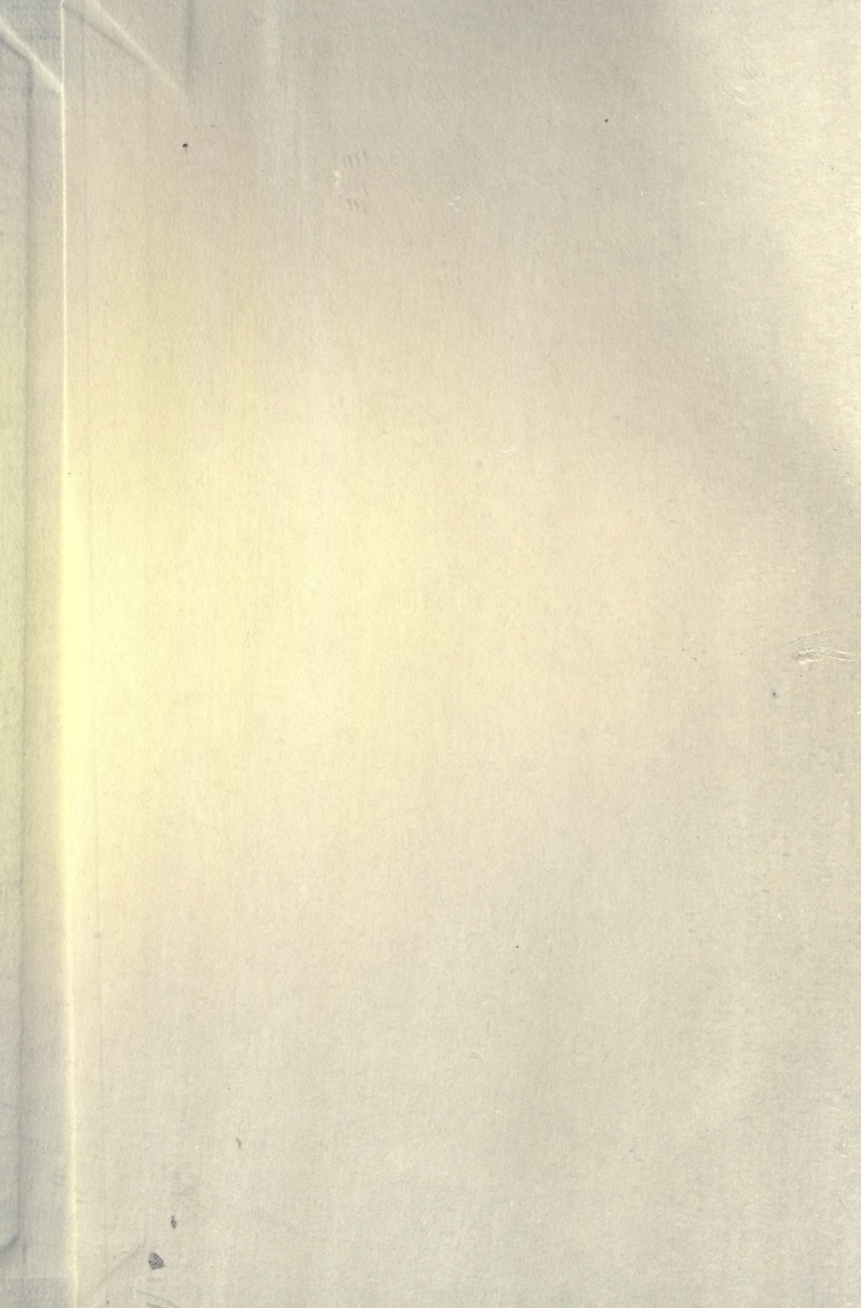


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**PROPOSALS FOR A SIMPLIFIED
SPELLING OF THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE : ^{c Ripmann}
BY WALTER RIPPMANN AND
WILLIAM ARCHER**



**THE SIMPLIFIED SPELLING SOCIETY
44 GREAT RUSSELL STREET
LONDON, W.C.**

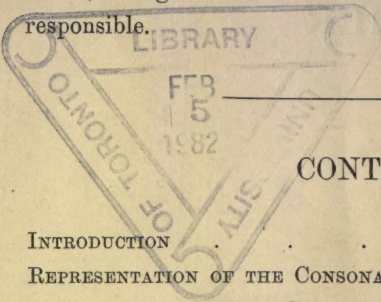
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NOTE

THE first and second editions of the *Proposals* were printed for private circulation only. The present (fourth) edition is a reprint of the third, with the addition of an Appendix for which, owing to Mr Archer's absence from England, I am alone responsible.

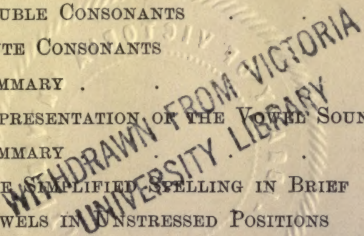
W. RIPPMANN.



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ing of t's interrupt the even movement of the pen. The diæresis is already in use, and may be retained; but it is a question whether even that might not be dispensed with.

(iii) To avoid, as far as possible, combinations of letters which are not already in use or more or less familiar. The exceptions which we have found to be unavoidable are the digraphs *zh* (see p. 20) and *uu* (see p. 40).

(iv) To make each symbol (letter or digraph) *self-contained*, so that its value should not depend on any other letter; as when, in the current spelling, a doubled consonant shortens, or a final *e* (following a consonant) lengthens, a preceding vowel. To this rule, however, we admit certain exceptions for the sake of economy.

(v) To economize in the use of letters wherever it seemed possible without ambiguity or inconsistency. As will be hereafter pointed out, the common argument that simplification would effect an immense economy of material (in paper, printing, ink, etc., etc.) does not hold good in its full extent unless a new alphabet be adopted which provides a single symbol for each sound. So long as digraphs have to be employed, the economy cannot be very great.

(vi) To depart as little as possible from the current spelling, appropriating to each sound (so far as possible) the symbol already most commonly used to represent it. We have thus been able to retain unaltered an immense number of words, and, in a still larger number, to suggest only a slight alteration. This 'principle of least disturbance' needs no apology. It is important in two aspects: not only to make the change as easy as possible for a generation which has learnt the old spelling, but to enable the new generations to read old books with the least possible trouble. The difficulty would, in fact, be trifling.

(vii) To make allowance for existing divergences of pronunciation. If Southern English only had been considered the process of simplification could have been largely extended. In order, however, to appeal to speakers of English generally, certain features have been retained which, while familiar to the Southern English speaker, represent distinctions of pronunciation no longer to be found in his speech. Thus the Southern English speaker makes no distinction between *w* and *wh*, or (before consonant) and *au*. Similarly the signs *-nch*, *-nj* (for *-nge*) have been adopted, although in Southern English *nsh*, *nzh* would represent the sounds more accurately.

In cases like the *ai* in *aim*, where some speakers of English pronounce a long vowel and others a diphthong, it is clear that the spelling *ai*, which is purely conventional, may be taken to signify either pronunciation.

It will be noticed that although the sound of a word will inevitably suggest the spelling to one who has learnt the symbols here proposed, the spelling will not in all cases suggest the exact sound. In this respect the proposed spelling occasionally falls short of an absolutely phonetic spelling; but the fact that not every nicety of pronunciation is distinguished by the spelling is of little importance, and there are strong reasons in favour of using the signs in the way indicated in the following pages. Thus the fact that *th* represents both the voiced sound (*e.g.* in *the*) and the voiceless sound (*e.g.* in *thing*) gives rise to no difficulties in the present spelling, and it has consequently been felt that there is no need to adopt any unfamiliar notation (*e.g.* *dh*) to represent the voiced variety. Again, many common words (forms of *to be* and *to have*, pronouns, prepositions) have what is known as 'strong and weak forms,' according as they are emphasised or not; the vowel of *was* is not the same in 'Yes, I *wás* there' as in 'I was going *thére*.' This difference is not shown in the proposed spelling. Differences in quantity are regularly associated also with the presence of a final voiced or voiceless sound; thus *bead* has a longer vowel than *beat*, *bed* a

longer vowel than *bet*. Some other cases might be adduced in which the proposed spelling falls short of the accuracy which would be demanded by a strict phonetic analysis. It may indeed be described as phonetic spelling drawing its signs from those in current use and tempered by what common sense suggests as expedient.

The essential thing is that any one who knows the pronunciation of a word should be able to spell it correctly; in this the present spelling fails hopelessly. To the foreigner it would doubtless be very welcome if the spelling in every case suggested the sound; but though it is desirable to render it easy for the foreigner to learn our language, it is our own people we have to think of first; and even the foreigner will find that the proposed spelling leaves very few stumbling blocks in his way.

The compromises embodied in our scheme are not adopted with a view to conciliating prejudice (a hopeless attempt), but because reason suggests that the gap between the old spelling and the new should be made as small as it can be made *without sacrifice of simplicity*, in order to minimize the difficulty which those educated in the new system would find in reading literature printed in the old lack of system. In none of our compromises (unless we are mistaken) is the convenience of the coming generation sacrificed to the habits of the adult generation of to-day; and this we conceive to be the fundamental condition of a truly simplified spelling.

Though we despair of conciliating prejudice, we believe that even the most prejudiced man can occasionally be induced to put aside his prejudices for a moment and bring into play the reason which lurks somewhere behind them. Now it is of the utmost importance that what we have to put before him in such a moment of provisionally suspended judgment should appeal to his reason *directly, strongly and clearly*. This can be done only by a scheme which (1) can be taken in at a glance and very

quickly memorized, (2) professes to be final, so far as finality is possible in such matters. We believe that every additional rule, and every suggestion of a manifestly temporary and transitional character, would weaken the appeal to reason without sensibly diminishing the shock to prejudice.

Our experience of discussing the scheme, not, indeed, with the general public, but with teachers and others who have given some thought to the subject, leads us to feel hopeful of its probable reception by many of those who are practically interested in the question; and it is from the educational side that the change must ultimately come. We are so constantly met by complaints of the manifest lack of finality in the proposals hitherto put forward, that we cannot but doubt the policy of promulgating a scheme which, while it *approaches* finality, clearly stops short of it in several important particulars.

Before arriving at any conclusion, it was necessary to classify the present spellings. The results are given in the analytic lists. A number following a specimen word or group of letters implies that there are so many words in which the particular spelling in question occurs. Where one or two words are given with no number after them, the implication is that they are the only words of that type.

In arriving at the numbers here supplied, no attention was paid to rare words, to foreign words, and to proper names, and compounds of the same word (*e.g. conclude, include, preclude*) were only counted once. There can be no absolute definition of a 'rare word,' and now and then words have been counted or not counted (as being 'not rare' or 'rare') where others might have discriminated differently; but it is believed that such cases are relatively few in number, and do not impair the general trustworthiness of the statistics.

THE SOUNDS OF ENGLISH AND THEIR REPRESENTATION

Consonant Sounds.

Those letters of the present alphabet which are practically invariable in value, when not merged in digraphs—those which are always sounded in one way when they are singly sounded at all—retain that value in the notation here suggested.¹ These letters are :—

b as in bin	m as in met	h as in hot
p ² as in pin	n as in net	l as in lot
d as in din	v as in vat	j ⁴ as in jot
t as in tin	f ³ as in fat	w ⁵ as in win

There can be no reasonable doubt that the letters B, P, D, T, M, N, V, F, H, L, J, W are the proper and convenient symbols for those twelve sounds.

¹ With the exception of *k*, which is not employed at all.

² P has, of course, a purely conventional value in the digraph *ph*.

ph has the value of *f* in many words drawn from Greek (*e.g.* alphabet) and in a few from other foreign languages (*e.g.* caliph). Only in a few cases (*e.g.* fancy) has *f* taken its place.

It is suggested that *f* take the place of *ph* in all cases.

Nephew appears to be the only exception ; here *v* should take the place of *ph* in accordance with the prevailing pronunciation, but *f* may be written by those who use the voiceless sound here.

³ There is one exception in the case of *f*—*of* is pronounced, and ought therefore to be spelt, *ov*.

⁴ See pp. 8, 21.

⁵ *w* is the value of *u*, preceding a vowel, in the combination *ngu* (*e.g.* anguish, 6), *su* (*e.g.* persuade, 3), and in *cuirass*. It is suggested that *w* take the place of *u* in these cases.

w is also the initial sound of *one*, *once* ; there seems no alternative but to write these words *wun*, *wuns*.

Consonant Sounds requiring Change.

G. The letter *g* has two values in present usage: the so-called hard sound, as in *got*, and the so-called soft sound, as in *age*. But whereas there is no other letter to represent the hard sound, there is another letter (*j*) in common use to represent the soft sound. Therefore it seemed advisable beyond all question to let *g* represent the sound in *got*, and *j* the sound in *jot*, *age*, etc. J, it will be noted, figures on the list of letters which, in the present spelling, never have any value except that here assigned them.

C, K. A far more difficult question arises as to the choice between *c* and *k*. We ought certainly to write *got*, but ought we to write *cot* or *kot*? As the 'soft *c*' (before *e* or *i*) must evidently be represented in a reasonable alphabet by *s*, the two symbols *c* and *k* are equally at our command. Which of the two equivalent symbols is it advisable to adopt?

It must be remembered that the sound of *k* occurs not only where it is now represented by *c* or *k*, but in the syncopated letters *q* (= *cw* or *kw*) and *x* (= *cs* or *ks*). Whatever symbol is chosen, therefore, will recur very frequently.

[The letter *k* occurs in very many words, some from the Greek (*e.g.* kinetic, asterisk) or other foreign sources (*e.g.* fakir, kangaroo), but the majority of native origin.

It occurs finally (110), and in -ake (23), -oke (13), -uke (3), -ike (7), suffix -kin (15), -sket (6), -sky (5), sundry (about 70). Total: about 250 cases. *k* also occurs in the combination *ck* (see A. II.), 188 cases, and in the combination *nk* (final, 54; -nkle, 8; -nker, 8; -nket, 3; -nk(e)y, 3; sundry, 3), 79 cases.]

It is suggested that **c** be used in place of *k* and *ck*, and **nc** in place of *nk*, the *n* in this combination retaining the value of *ng*, except in compounds (*e.g.* in-cur, con-cur).

The terminal hard *c* is no novelty in English. It occurs in at least 400 words ending in *ac* and *ic*, *e.g.* *maniac*, *music*. Against the difficulties which arise from the habit of associating *c* in

certain combinations with the sound of *s*, we may set a few specimens of the forms that would have to be accepted if *k* were the symbol chosen: kaktus, kart, kaukus, klaret, klerik, kap, kritik, kronik, komik, kot, kok, kik, klot, kumber, kamp, konker. The main drawback, however, would lie in the substitution of *k* for *c* in the numberless words in which the Latin *con-* (*co-*, *com-*) and *contra-* appear in one form or another.

The following arguments may be urged in favour of *c*:—

(1) In the current spelling the 'hard *c*' is far commoner than *k*, so that the principle of least disturbance suggests its retention. The following tabular statement shows the number of occurrences of the two symbols in certain typical pieces of prose. When the letters occur in the combination *ck* (as in *back*) they are not counted, being held, for the purposes of this enumeration, to cancel each other.

	K	C
The Sermon on the Mount (St Matthew v., vi., vii.)	53	86
'Sartor Resartus,' chap. i.	32	121
Macaulay, Essay on Byron, paragraphs 1-3	12	45
Forster, 'Life of Dickens' (two pages)	29	54
Spencer, 'Education' (two pages)	6	50
Bret Harte (two pages)	12	28
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> editorials (26th May 1909):—		
(a) The King's Success in the Derby (includes 13 'Kings')	18	55
(b) The Chemical Congress	24	128
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	186	567

Taking these random but representative specimens together, we find that the employment of *c* is commoner than that of *k* in the proportion of about 3 to 1. Initial *c* is enormously more frequent than initial *k*. In an ordinary school dictionary (chosen because it does not profess to give recondite words) there are some 3000 words beginning in hard *c*, to about 130 beginning in *k*.

In poetry the figures would not be quite the same, since the vocabulary of the poets is apt to contain a larger proportion of Saxon words, to which the *k* is practically confined. Still, the following table shows a considerable preponderance of the hard *c* over the *k*.

Consonant Sounds requiring Change

	K	C
Hamlet's soliloquy ('To be or not to be')	6	14
Othello's last speech (from 'Soft you')	5	1
Antony's Oration (from 'Friends' to 'mutiny')	13	27
'Ancient Mariner' (many <i>k</i> 's-due to 'like' similes)	107	95
'Locksley Hall'	42	82
Francis Thompson, 'Hound of Heaven'	24	35
Keats, 'Endymion,' iv. 406-476	37	43
„ 'Ode on a Grecian Urn'	5	14
Shelley, 'Hymn to Intellectual Beauty'	13	25
Pope, 'Rape of the Lock,' Canto I.	19	54
Matthew Arnold, 'Sohrab and Rustum,' l. 1-114	23	37
Scott, 'Lay of the Last Minstrel'	13	23
Milton, 'Paradise Lost,' i. 1-200	19	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>326</u>	<u>502</u>

In poetry, then, the preponderance of hard *c* over *k* is somewhat smaller, but still considerable. Even if it were not so, the case for *c* would scarcely be weakened. As all correspondence and by far the greater part of literature takes the form of prose, convenience in the writing and reading of prose is of paramount importance.

(2) There is also some reason in the history of the language for preferring *c*. The earliest English alphabet, derived from the Roman missionaries, contained *c*, but not *k*, and *qu* was rare in Old English. Thus our *quick* was spelled *cwic*. The *k* was introduced through German influence, especially in the North; there was no rule as to its use, *c* and *k* being employed indiscriminately. Norman French turned the balance in favour of *c*, but *k* continued to be freely used in the North.

(3) It seems to be generally felt that *k* is an ugly letter, and there would probably be less difficulty in getting people to accept *cing* for *king* than in inducing them to tolerate *kat* for *cat*. It might be possible, as a measure of transition, to retain *k* before *e* and *i*, until a generation had arisen which had never associated *c* with the sibilant sound. This would be easy if the few words beginning with the *k* were alone concerned; but the policy seems more doubtful when we reflect that the terminal *c* would have to be *changed* into *k* in the present participle of all verbs ending with this sound. For instance, when *pac*, *pec*, *pic*, *moc*, and *pluc* are so spelt, it will be cumbersome

for learners to remember that *k* must be substituted for *c* in *paking*, *peking*, *piking*, *moking*, and *pluking*. The same difficulty would arise with the affixes *er* and *en*: thus *seec*, *seeker*, *thic*, *thiken*.

(4) The letter *c*, in writing, involves less than half the exertion required by the letter *k*.

This argument assumes that a vowel-notation is adopted which dispenses with the silent *e* in such words as *make*, *eke*, *like*, *coke*, *duke* (see p. 32). Otherwise, in the period of transition, such forms as *mace* for *make*, *lace* for *lake*, *lice* for *like*, *spice* for *spike*, would be constant stumbling-blocks.

[Among the comments made on the *Proposals* there is no general agreement as to the representation of the sound. It has been generally accepted that *c* might be used always for the sound when it precedes *a*, *o*, *u*. On the other hand, there is a variety of opinion as to what symbol should be adopted when the sound precedes a front vowel (*e*, *i*). To the suggestion that here also *c* should be used, the following objections are urged:—

(i) The existing feeling that *c* before *e* and *i* should be pronounced *s*.—This is obviously a difficulty that would be found in the transition stage only.

(ii) The disturbance in the dictionary order of these words, and the fact that some very common words would have to be changed, such as *keep*, *key*, *king*.—It is a question whether these considerations are sufficiently strong to outweigh the advantages of a uniform designation of the sound.

The suggestion made in this connection that *c* should be retained before *e* and *i* with the value of *s* is obviously unacceptable. Nothing would show the child whether in any particular case the *s* sound before *e* or *i* should be written *s* or *c*. How could a child know, otherwise than by mere memorising, that there is *s* in *seating* *c* in *ceiling*; *s* in *session*, *c* in *cession*; *s* in *sit*, *c* in *city*?

Consonant Sounds requiring Change

X. Assuming that *c* is adopted for the *k* sound, and *s* and *z* respectively for the voiceless and the voiced sibilants, we may now discuss the question whether it is desirable to retain the synecopated symbol *x*.

It may seem at first sight as though *x* were a very convenient abbreviation for *cs*, which, on the principle of least disturbance, might be retained. But a little examination renders this doubtful.

The letter *x* has three values :

(i) *cs*, (*e.g.* axis), mostly in words drawn from Latin (*e.g.* maxim, -trix suffix), or Greek (*e.g.* axis), but also in some native words (*e.g.* next, vixen). This is by far the most common value of *x*. There are some six cases in which *x* has this value also (*e.g.* excite).

(ii) *gz*, in Alexandrine, anxiety, auxiliary, luxurious, and a number of cases in which the prefix *ex-* is neither stressed nor followed by another consonant (*e.g.*, exalt, exhaust).

Some include *exhale* in this group; others pronounce *ecs-hale*, probably owing to the desire to indicate the contrast to *inhale*.

(iii) *z*, initially, in a few rare words (*e.g.* xanthous) and proper names (*e.g.* Xenophon).

It is suggested that the appropriate signs (**cs**, **gz**, or **z**) be used in place of *x*, except in proper names.

It is to be noted, in the first place, that *x* is an ambiguous symbol. When followed by a consonant and in stressed syllables it is equivalent to *cs*; but in unstressed syllables, followed by a vowel, it is equivalent to *gz*. Examples: extreme (ecstreme), execute (ecsecute), example (egzample). The *gz* function, though less frequent than the other, cannot be treated as a mere freak or exception, much less as arising from slovenliness of pronunciation. It is clearly undesirable, in any system of spelling which aims at consistency, to retain a symbol of uncertain value. Can this initial objection be outweighed by any clear surplus of expediency? "The very fact," it may be said, "that the difference of pronunciation is not arbitrary, but arises from a physiological tendency, renders it unnecessary to

discriminate. The *x* in extreme, in execute, and in example represents the same vocal effort, involuntarily modified by difference of stress. For all practical purposes, the symbol, though it represents two pairs of sounds, represents the same action of the tongue, and may therefore be retained."

This argument might be accepted if the prefix *ex-* were alone in question. But the two pairs of sounds (*cs* and *gz*) occur in so many other contexts that the attempt to carry through consistently their abbreviation into *x* would result in a far greater departure from the traditions of the language than is involved in the simple and scientific writing of the two sounds in full. There might, perhaps, be no great objection to such forms as: *axede*, *axelerate*, *axent*, *axept*, *axess*, *axident*, *axidence*, *axessory*, *baxlide*, *baxstairs*, *axentric*, *huxter*, *irxome*, *oxident*, *oxiput*, *suxeed*, *suxess*, *suxinct*, *vaxinate*, *vaxine*, *faximile*,¹ though it is submitted that the slight gain in brevity (in writing, as distinct from printing, the gain would be very slight, since *x* is a difficult letter to form) is more than cancelled by the loss in consistency of practice; for the learner might aptly inquire why, if a shorthand equivalent for *cs* is adopted, a similar equivalent should not be found for *ts*, *ps* and several other combinations of consonants.

The real objection to the symbol is seen when we note that the plural and possessive of nouns and the third person singular of verbs, ending in *c* or *k* or *ck*, would all have to be formed in *x*. Thus we should have: *speax*, *creex*, *streax*, *oax*, *cloax*, *stax*, *pax*, *crax*, *tax*, *dex*, *chex*, *snax*, *nex*, *wrex*, *chix*, *lix*, *trix*, *critix*, *ethix*, *cynix*, *stoix*, *fabrix*, *lyrix*, *sux*, *reex*, *milx*, *silx*, *thanx*, *tusx*, *inx*, *sinx*, *winx*, *boox*, *coox*, *barx*, *sharx*, *clerx*, *corx*, *hawx*,¹ and a hundred other similar forms.

It is submitted that, even if the abbreviation were held otherwise desirable, this masking of grammar by running the stem and the sign of inflexion into one would be highly inconvenient. Furthermore, if exact, exasperate, and example are to be written with *x*, there is no logical reason why *bags*, *flags*, *eggs*, *legs*, *pigs*, *logs*, and *rugs* should not be written *bax*, *flax*, *ex*, *lex*, *pix*, *lox*, and *rux*. There is no phonetic difference between the consonantal sounds in the word *eggs* and those in the first syllable of *example*.

It would be possible, no doubt, by a quite illogical compromise to retain the *x* in the Latin prefix *ex*, or to make a rule that the *cs* sound should be analysed into its components where it occurred in a

¹ In these examples the current spelling has been retained, except as regards the employment of *x*.

Consonant Sounds requiring Change

final syllable, but should be represented by *x* elsewhere. But in that case should we write *ax* or *acs*, *box* or *boes*, *fox* or *focs*, *fix* or *fics*, *mix* or *mics*, *ox* or *ocs*? There would be no possibility of avoiding a number of inconsistencies which the learner would have to memorise. Would it not be far more convenient to adopt the simple practice of writing *cs* where we say *cs* and *gz* where we say *gz*? We should thus have such forms as: *acsent*, *acept*, *ecsentric*, *sucseed*, *quicsotic*, *sics*, *creecs*, *cracs*, *ecspect*, *acs*, *acsiom*, *boes*, *boeser*, *bucsom*, *docsology*, *ecstasy*, *sicsteen*, *decs*, *chees*, *nees*, *critics*, *indecs*, *juestaposition*, *lacsity*, *lecsicon*, *locsmith*, *macsim*, *ocs*, *ocsen*, *secs*, *secston*, *ethics*, *miles*, *thancs*, *ecstent*; and: *egzemplary*, *egzist*, *legz*, *bagz*, *pigz*, *egzibit*, *flagz*, *rugz*.

QU. The retention of *qu* for the sounds *c* and *w* is open to fewer objections than the retention of *x*; but it also presents fewer apparent advantages. Its sole advantage, indeed, would lie in its familiarity, for *qu* is no shorter than its logical substitute *cw*, and is considerably more difficult to write. The likeness of the written *q* to the written *g* is, moreover, a frequent source of trouble to printers. Its retention would be an arbitrary breach of consistency in the interests of the adult generation, as opposed to all coming generations of learners. Moreover, in order to be consistent in our inconsistency, we should have to substitute *qu* for *kw* and *ckw* in the words *awkward* and *backward*. Though *cw* would at first look odd in words derived from the Latin, such as *quarter* and *quarrel*, in Anglo-Saxon words, such as *queen*, *quick*, *quake*, it would be a mere return to a historic form.

[The diagraph *qu* (with the value of *cw*) occurs in a fair number of words, most of which have been drawn from Latin sources; in the majority of cases *qu* is initial. The combination *cqu* occurs in a few cases (*e.g.* *acquit*) and *nqu* (*e.g.* *tranquil*) occurs rarely.

It is suggested that **cw** be used in place of *qu* and *cqu*, and **ncw** in place of *nqu*, the *n* retaining the value of *ng*.

qu with the value of *c* occurs in eight words ending in *-ique*, of French origin; if they do not, as foreign words, remain unchanged, their ending would become *-eec*. It also occurs initially in *quay*.]

Z, S. We have assumed above, and the assumption seems quite inevitable, that the distinction between the voiced and the voiceless sibilant—between the final sounds of *his* and *hiss*—must be logically carried through by the assignment of *z* to the former and *s* to the latter sound. Any simplification which shrinks from this plainest measure of reform must, in many instances, leave confusion worse confounded. It is obvious, for example, that so long as *s* is allowed to serve in both capacities, we cannot release *c* from the duty of serving, when followed by *e*, as a second symbol for the *s* sound. The simplification of *hence* into *hens* is impossible so long as that combination of letters represents the plural of the domestic fowl. We cannot write *pronouns* for *pronounce* so long as we spell the plural of *pronoun* in the same way. The only possible objection to this simplest of simplifications lies in its doing away with the apparently simple rule that the plural number and the possessive case are formed by the addition of *s* to the noun; but a generation accustomed to use its ears will never have the slightest difficulty in determining where an *s* is to be used and where a *z*.

[Considerable changes are required in order to make the representation of the sounds of voiceless **s** and voiced **z** consistent.

At a late stage of Latin a change took place in the pronunciation of *c* before *e*, *i*, and *y*. In English the *c* in such cases represents the *s* sound, with the exception of certain cases dealt with on p. 19. The number of words containing *c* with the value of *s* is very considerable.

This will be evident from an inspection in any dictionary of the words beginning with *ce*-, *ci*-, and from the great frequency of words ending in *-ce* (*-ace*, 20; *-eace*, 1; *-ice*, 56; *-iece*, 2; *-oice*, 3; *-uce*, 4; *-uice*, 2; *-nce*, 36; *-rce*, 7: total, 133), *-cent* (8), *-cer* (8), *-cible* (6), *-cid* (5), *-cism* (15), *-cit* (7), *-city* (37), *-cy* (11), *-ance* and *-ancy* (very many), *-ence* and *-ency* (very many), *-acy* (many).

The combination *cc* occurs in 12 cases before *e* or *i*, and then has the value of *cs*.

Consonant Sounds requiring Change

s (also *se*, *es*) often has the value of *z*.

It never has this value initially, but it occurs frequently within the word (*e.g.* damsel, position, dismal), especially in many endings; in inflections (see *Accidence* (p. 59) and in -ase (9), -aise (4), -anse (5), -ease (6), -ise (very many), -ose (22), -oise (3), -oose (3), -ouse (9), -owse (2), -use (9), -uise (2), -yse (2); -sy (20), -san (3), -son (12), -asm (8), -ism (many).

The double *ss* has the value of *z* in dessert, dissolve, hussar, hussy, possess, scissors. In discern *sc* has the value of *z* in the pronunciation of many. The fact that initial *x* has the value of *z* has been mentioned above.]

We have now a list of sixteen consonants which can be assigned with absolute consistency to one invariable function; they are—*bin*, *pin*, *din*, *tin*, *met*, *net*, *vat*, *fat*, *hot*, *lot*, *jot*, *win*, *got*, *cot*, *set*, *zest*. Five of these letters (*t*, *h*, *c*, *s*, and *w*) are employed in digraphs; but whenever they are sounded singly they have (in our scheme) the above value.

R. The letter *r* has many different values according to its position and according to local usage. We propose to leave it wherever it occurs in the spelling of to-day, except where it is doubled.

But see p. 25 as to prefixes and compound words.

Y. We propose to retain the consonantal *y* of such words as *yet*, *young*.

We now come to the question of digraphs; and here we have to recommend a few departures from absolute consistency.

TH. We propose to leave to *th* its present dual function, not differentiating between its sound in *thin* and its sound in *this*. It is true that if we spell *thin* with *th*, it would appear simple and logical to spell *this* with *dh* (dhis). But the voiced *th* sound happens to occur in many of the commonest words in the language (the, that, then, with, etc., etc.), and the adoption of *dh* in all these words would be a great shock to conservative sentiment, while it would not effect a very substantial or essential simplification. Here a distinction may be noticed which is sometimes overlooked—the distinction between children who learn the language by ear, not by eye, and foreigners, who generally learn the language as much by eye as by ear. To a child who knows, before he has ever opened a book, how to pronounce *thin* and *this*, the retention of one symbol for the two sounds will present no difficulty. It is only the foreign learner who will at first be in doubt as to the precise value of the *th*.

[The digraph *th* represents the voiced *th* in *this* and the voiceless *th* in *thing*.

The voiced *th* occurs initially in the very common words: than, that, the, them, then, thence, there, these, this, those, thus; and in the relatively rare words: thee, thither, thou. It occurs finally in smooth, with, in the ending -the (*e.g.* bathe, 20 cases), in the ending -ther (*e.g.* mother, 29 cases), and in a few other cases. Some substantives have the voiceless *th* in the singular and the voiced *th* in the plural and in the corresponding verb (*e.g.* mouth, mouths, mouthe); note also worth: worthy, heath: heathen.

In the word *eighth* a *t* has been omitted which is pronounced, and should therefore be written.

A phonetic spelling would here employ one symbol for each of the sounds (voiced and voiceless); thus \eth and θ are used for this purpose in the International alphabet.]

NG. The same remark applies to the retention of the single digraph *ng* to represent the two sounds which occur in *singer* and *finger*. The latter word ought in strict consistency to be spelt *fingger*; but the two *g*'s form a cumbrous combination, and no one who uses English as his mother tongue will ever be in doubt as to which value the *ng* represents in any given word. Only the foreign learner will have to take some trouble to remember that, for instance, *longer* is not pronounced strictly as it is spelt, but as though it were *longger*. While retaining this ambiguity, however, on the principle of least disturbance, we are quite prepared to believe that a generation for which the spelling of to-day has no prestige may prefer consistency to elegance, and write *longger*, *strongger*, *lingger*, *fingger*. Similarly, we have held it unnecessary to analyse the nasal sounds in *tank* and *canker* into their full components, *tangc* and *cangcer*. No inconvenience can arise from the use of the shorter forms *tanc*, *cancer*.

[The digraph *ng* has four values :

- (i) *ng*, as in *singer*. This is the most common value.
- (ii) *n + g*, as in *engage* and other compounds.
- (iii) *ng + g*; this is found in a few words of foreign origin (*e.g.* *bungalow*, *fungus*, *mango*), in the combinations *ngl* (present spelling *ngl* and *ngle*, *e.g.* *angle*, 30); *ngr*, *nger*, *ngor* ([present spelling *-or* and *-our*], *e.g.* *anger*, 15); *ngw* (present spelling *ngu*, *e.g.* *anguish*, 12).
- (iv) *nj*, as in *singe*.

It is suggested that **ng** be retained in the cases given under (i), (ii), and (iii); for the treatment of *ng* = *nj*, see p. 4.

The International alphabet uses the convenient symbol η to represent the single sound written *ng* in *sing*.]

SH, ZH. The sounds represented by *sh* in *mesh* and *s* in *measure* are somewhat difficult to deal with, as in the current spelling they are represented in so many different ways.

[The **sh** sounds (voiceless and voiced) occur unaccompanied by another consonant in *cash* and *leisure*, preceded by the sound of *t* and *d* respectively in *catch* and *ledger*.

The sound of **sh** is represented by

(i) *sh*; this is the usual value of *sh*.

(ii) *s* in *censure*, *sensual*, *sugar*, *sure*, *tonsure*.

(iii) *ch*, initially and medially in words mainly drawn from French (*e.g.* *chandelier*, *moustache*); and, in Southern English speech, in final *-nch* (32), and in *luncheon*, *truncheon*.

(iv) *ti* in the very common endings *-tion* (*e.g.* *contention*, *agitation*, *caution*, *repletion*, *addition*, *motion*, *ablution*), *-tial* (*e.g.* *partial*), and in the fairly common endings *-tient* (*e.g.* *patient*), *-tious* (*e.g.* *facetious*), *-tiate* (*e.g.* *expatiate*); also in *-tia* (*e.g.* *militia*), *-tian* (*e.g.* *tertian*).

Note that in *partiality* and the words in *-tiate* the *i* is pronounced.

(v) *ci* in the fairly common endings *-cial* (*e.g.* *special*), *-cian* (*e.g.* *musician*), *-cient* (*e.g.* *deficient*), *-cious* (*e.g.* *auspicious*), *-cion* (*e.g.* *coercion*, *suspicion*), *-ciate* (*e.g.* *associate*), *-cia* (*acacia*), and a few other cases.

(vi) *ce* in the fairly common ending *-ceous* (*e.g.* *herbaceous*) and in *ocean*.

(vii) *si* in the fairly common ending *-sion* following a consonant (*viz. l, e.g.* *compulsion*, *n, e.g.* *dimension*, *r, e.g.* *diversion*); also in *controversial*.

(viii) *sci* in *conscience*, *unconscionable*, *luscious*, etc.

(ix) *x* has the value of *sch* in a few words (*e.g.* *luxury*, *complexion*, *noxious*). Note the variants *connexion*: *connection*.

(x) *ss* in the endings *-ssion* (*e.g.* *passion*, *cession*, *mission*, *discussion*, 8), *-ssure* (*fissure*, *pressure*, *scissure*), and in *issue*, *tissue* (where, however, some pronounce *s*).

Consonant Sounds requiring Change

The voiced sound corresponding to *sh* is represented by

- (i) *si* in the ending *-sion* preceded by a vowel (*-asion*, 4 ; *-esion*, 2 ; *-ision*, 6 ; *-osion*, 2 ; *-usion*, 5), and in *-osier* (3).
- (ii) *ssi* in *abscission*.
- (iii) *zi* in *glazier*, *grazier*.
- (iv) *s* in the ending *-sure* preceded by a vowel (*e.g.* *measure*, 9) and in *usual*, *usury*.
- (v) *z* in *azure*, *seizure*.
- (vi) *g* or *j* in a few words taken from the French (*e.g.* *prestige*, *regime*, *rouge* ; *bijou*).]

It is suggested that **sh** be used to represent the voiceless sound, except when it forms part of the combination usually written *ch* (see p. 21) ; and that **zh** be used to represent the voiced sound (except in foreign words where *g* may continue to be used).

There are some cases in which alternative spellings must be allowed. Thus in such words as *association*, some give the *c* the value of *s*, others that of *sh* ; in words in *-zier* or *-sier*, some pronounce *z* and others *zh*.

In a strictly phonetic alphabet these simple sounds would not be represented by digraphs but by single symbols ; thus in the International alphabet *j* is used for *sh* and *ʒ* for *zh*.

CH. The retention of the digraph *ch* for the sound which might also be expressed by *tsh* is manifestly convenient and leads to no ambiguities or other difficulties. There can be little hesitation in choosing between *church* and *tshurtsh*. The letter *j* has been already suggested as the best representation of the voiced sounds corresponding to the voiceless *ch*.

In a phonetic spelling the combinations would each be represented by a digraph. The International alphabet uses *tʃ* and *dʒ*.

[The combination of the values of **t** and **sh** is represented by

(i) *ch*; this is the usual value of *ch* (*e.g.* *chat*).

(ii) *tch*, which occurs finally (*e.g.* *batch*, 39), and medially (11).

(iii) *t* in the ending *-ture* (*e.g.* *feature*, 70), unless preceded by *s* (*e.g.* *posture*, 6), in which case many pronounce the letters *tu* with their usual values.

The combination of the values of **d** and **the voiced equivalent of sh** is represented by

(i) *j*; this is the regular value of *j* (*e.g.* *jet*).

(ii) *g*, before *e*, *i*, *y* in many cases (*e.g.* *gem*), but not universally (*e.g.* *get*); rarely before other vowels (*e.g.* *gaol*, *margarine*).

(iii) *gg* in *exaggerate*.

(iv) *ge* finally after stressed vowels (*e.g.* *age*, 20) and in the endings *-age* (many), *-ege* (4), *-ige* (1), after *l* (4), *n* (28), *r* (15): also medially (*e.g.* *pageant*, 6) and in the ending *-geous* (*e.g.* *courageous*, 4).

(v) *gi* in the endings *-gion* (*e.g.* *legion*, 4) and *-gious* (*e.g.* *religious*, 6).

(vi) *dj* in compounds of prefix *ad-* and words beginning with *j* (*e.g.* *adjacent*, 9).

(vii) *di* in the word *soldier*.

(viii) *dg* medially (*e.g.* *badger*, 4).

(ix) *dge* finally (*e.g.* *badge*, 29); also medially (*e.g.* *bludgeon*, 4).

(x) *ch* in *spinach*.]

Consonant Sounds requiring Change

WH. The spelling *wh* (which occurs, initially, in some forty words and their derivatives) has various values in different forms of English. In Southern English it is, as a rule, not pronounced differently from *w*; but elsewhere it has the value of *hw*, or it is pronounced as the voiceless equivalent of *w*. It would be difficult to prove that any of these values preponderates. To substitute *w* or *hw* for the current spelling would impose the pronunciation of a minority on the rest of the English-speaking world; and we have, therefore, decided not to recommend any change in the use of this digraph, except, of course, where in current usage *wh* has the value of *h* (*e.g.* who, whole).

It has often been observed that we recognise words mainly by the consonants they contain; it is not difficult to read a group of words in which the vowels are merely represented by asterisks. The consonants are much less exposed to change than are the vowels; this, again, is obvious when kindred words in different languages are compared. It is important that a simplified spelling should not introduce any considerable changes in the representation of the consonants.

It is maintained that in the suggestions here put forward the changes have been reduced to the minimum consistent with a real simplification. To convince himself of this the reader need only consider one of the passages in simplified spelling given at the end of this book. The ease with which he will be able to read it will be a sure indication that the consonantal framework of the spelling has been changed in a very conservative spirit; but at the same time he will realise that such changes as appeared desirable represent a practically complete and logical simplification.

Double Consonants.

The term 'consonant'¹ includes two main groups of sounds :

(a) the stops (plosives, explosives), *e.g.* b, p. A complete stop consists of three parts : the formation of a closure, a pause, and the opening of the closure. The ear, however, accepts as a stop the closure only (*e.g.* the *p* of *map*, when the lips remain closed at the end of the word), or the opening only (*e.g.* the *p* in *please*, uttered without previous separation of the lips). When in a word the closure and the opening are both heard (as in the careful pronunciation of *coattail*), the presence of two stops (a double stop) is suggested. A stop may be lengthened by prolonging the pause between closure and opening.

(b) the continuants (fricatives, spirants), *e.g.* v, f. In these the breath is not stopped, but the passage through which it passes is narrowed in such a way that there is audible friction.

The nasal sounds (*m*, *n*, and *ng* as in *ring*) are stops, inasmuch as the breath is stopped in the mouth, and vowels, inasmuch as the breath issues through the nose without the passage being narrowed so as to produce friction.

In the case of the continuants and nasals, variations of length are frequent (thus *n* is longer in *man* than in *manner*). The doubling of the sound is, however, only suggested to the ear when there is a variation in the force of the breath (strong—weak—strong) as it continues to pass through the narrowing (*e.g.* *s* in *misstatement*).

Cases of *cc* (before *e*, *i*), *ck*, *cqu*, *dj*, *dg*, *tch* have been dealt with above.

¹ This term has been retained as a convenient 'label,' although it is originally based on the mistaken idea that a 'consonant' cannot be sounded unless accompanied by a vowel.

Double letters are found

(a) in words compounded by means of prefixes :

acc- (acclaim, etc., 22) ; add- (addict, etc., 3) ; aff- (affix, etc., 20) ;
agg- (aggravate, etc., 8) ; all- (alliteration, etc., 20) ; ann- (annihilate,
etc., 8) ; app- (approach, etc., 30) ; arr- (arrive, etc., 10) ; ass- (assail, etc.,
20) ; att- (attempt, etc., 13).

coll- (collate, etc., 14) ; comm- (commit, etc., 22) ; conn- (connote,
etc., 5) ; corr- (correspond, etc., 8).

diss- (dissatisfy, etc., 18).

eff- (effect, etc., 15).

ill- (illegal, etc., 14) ; imm- (immaterial, etc., 25) ; inn- (innate,
etc., 10) ; irr- (irregular, etc., 40).

interr- (interrupt).

opp- (oppress, etc., 4).

succ- (succumb, etc., 3) ; suff- (sufficient, etc., 4) ; supp- (suppress,
etc., 5).

(b) at the end of words :

-bb (ebb) ; -ck (back, etc., 107) ; -dd (add, odd) ; -ff (buff, etc., 39) ;
-gg (egg) ; -ll (ball, etc., 85) ; -nn (inn) ; -rr (err, purr, whirr) ; -ss
(bless, etc., 74) + -ess (fem.), -less, -ness suffixes ; -tt (butt) ; -zz
(buzz, fizz, frizz, fuzz).

(c) due to the addition of inflexions and suffixes :

(i) **Verbs** : -ing, -(e)d, -en, and verbal substantives in -er
(sometimes -ar).

-bb (stab, stabbing, etc., 25) ; -dd (wed, wedding, etc., 14) ; -gg (beg,
begging, etc., 26) ; -ll (excel, excelling, etc., 28) ; -mm (brim, brimming,
etc., 21) ; -nn (begin, beginning, etc., 26) ; -pp (clap, clapping, etc., 42) ;
-rr (bar, barring, etc., 17) ; -tt (bet, betting, etc., 49).

Verbs formed from adjectives by -en suffix (glad, gladden, 6).

(ii) **Adjectives** : -er, -est.

(sad, sadder, saddest, 16.)

Note also the forms inner, upper, utter, latter.

Adjectives formed from other words

by -ish suffix (wag, waggish, 10).

by -y suffix (mud, muddy, 29).

(d) before sundry endings :*-ar, -er(y), (ard, art)*

bb (6), ck (20), dd (12), ff (9), gg (13), ll (6), mm (10), nn (5), pp (12), tt (38), zz (3) ; note also -rrier (8), -rror (4).

-le, -el, -al

bb (27), ck (24), dd (26), ff (12), gg (18), mm (2), nn (7), pp (13), rr (5), ss (5), tt (30), zz (11).

-y, (-ie)

bb (6), ck (5), dd (7), ff (2), gg (5), ll (19 + -ly adverbs of adjectives in -l, many), mm (6), nn (8), pp (4), rr (20), tt (7).

-en, (-on)

ck (10), dd (2), ss (3), tt (9) ; note also -llion, -lleon (14).

-et, (-ot)

ck (18), ll (12), mm (2), nn (6), pp (4), rr (5), ss (6).

-ey: ck (4), ll (5).*-ow*: ll (18), rr (12).*-e*: ss (2), tt (19).*-op*: ll (6).*-o*: ll (5), tt (7).**(e) Not classified under sections (a) to (d) : about 100.**

The retention of double letters is justified in compound words (*e.g.* lamppost, coattail), where the presence of the last letter of the first part and the first letter of the second part is necessary to render the meaning clear.

Among compound words may be included those beginning with the prefixes con-, dis-, in-, inter-, mis-, ser-, un-. As is pointed out on p. 53, it is desirable that prefixes should, as far as possible, have a fixed form.

In other cases the doubling of consonants in the present spelling may be regarded as serving to indicate the value of a preceding vowel ; but as, in a simplified system, each vowel or combination of vowels must have a constant value, this reason for doubling consonants no longer exists.

It is therefore suggested that no double consonants be retained, except in compound words, including those formed with prefixes and suffixes, in which the double consonants are pronounced. (Examples: coattail, outtalk, meanness, soulless, solely, wholly.)

Mute Consonants.

(The term 'consonant' is based on a misconception of the part which these sounds play, but it continues to be the only convenient designation; the use of the terms 'silent' or 'mute' with 'consonant' is common and unambiguous.)

The presence of mute consonants is usually due either to a change in pronunciation (the *k* of *knee* was once pronounced) or to a desire to suggest the derivation (the *b* in *debt* was never pronounced). Nothing justifies their retention in a simplified spelling.

In some cases the mute letter neither represents an older pronunciation nor suggests the correct derivation (*e.g.* the *h* in *ghost*, the *c* in *scent*, the *g* in *sovereign*).

There is a further group of cases in which a word borrowed from Greek or Latin contains a combination of consonants unfamiliar to speakers of English (*e.g.* *mn* in *mnemonic*, *autumn*; *phth* in *phthisis*) or is used with another than the ordinary English value (*e.g.* *ch* in *chord*).

In classifying the cases of mute consonants, a discrimination between native words and words directly or indirectly derived from Greek or Latin is interesting.

*Native Words:**Words from Greek or Latin:***Mute consonants occur****(a) initially:**

<i>gn</i> (gnat, etc., 6)	<i>h</i> (hour, etc., 4; 2nd part of compound, exhaust, etc., 8)
<i>h</i> (2nd part of compound, shepherd, etc., 3)	
<i>kn</i> (knave, etc., 21)	<i>mn</i> (mnemonic)
<i>wh</i> (whole, etc., 3)	<i>pn</i> (pneumonia)
<i>wr</i> (wrap, etc., 21)	<i>ps</i> (psalm, etc., 5)
anomalous: <i>pt</i> (ptarmigan)	

Some speakers pronounce the initial *m* of *mnemonic* and the initial *p* of *pseudo-*, *psycho-*. Alternative spellings retaining these letters would be permissible.

(b) **finally** (see also (e) below):

<i>m</i> b (comb, etc., 10)	<i>m</i> b (bomb, etc., 5)
<i>gh</i> (high, etc., 19; augh 2, eigh 3, igh 4, ough 10)	<i>mn</i> (autumn, etc., 8)
<i>h</i> (ah, etc., 6)	<i>rrh</i> (catarrh, myrrh)

(c) **in certain combinations, within the word :**

<i>sc</i> before <i>e, i, y</i> (scythe)	<i>sc</i> before <i>e, i, y</i> (very many ; note especially <i>-esce,</i> <i>-escent</i> endings)
<i>ght</i> (light, etc., 40; aight 1, aught 9, eight 3, ight 18, ought 9)	<i>gm</i> (phlegm, etc., 4)
<i>gh</i> (ghost, etc., 5)	<i>gn</i> (sign, etc., 17)
<i>ld</i> (could, etc., 4)	<i>ch</i> (chord, etc., very many)
<i>lf</i> (half, etc., 3)	<i>rh</i> (rhythm, etc., 8)
	<i>lc</i> (falcon ¹)
<i>lk</i> (talk, etc., 6)	<i>lk</i> (chalk)
<i>lm</i> (qualm, holm)	<i>lm</i> (balm, etc., 7)
<i>lv</i> (halve)	<i>scl</i> (corpusele, muscle)
<i>ften</i> (often, soften) ¹	
<i>stl</i> (thistle, etc., 18) ¹	<i>stl</i> (castle)
<i>sten</i> (hasten, etc., 7) ¹	<i>sthm</i> (asthma, isthmus)

(d) **at end of first part of compound :**

d in handkerchief; *p* in cupboard, raspberry; in chestnut, mortgage; *ck* in blackguard.

(e) **in modern loanwords :**

final *h* (ayah, etc., 5), *s* (apropos, etc., 5), *t* (debut, etc., 10)
c in czar; *g* in imbroglia, seraglio; *p* in corps; *qu* in lacquer

(f) **in sundry cases :**

b (doubt, debt, subtle); *c* (indict, victual; schedule, schist, seneschal); *ch* (drachm, schism, yacht); *h* (ache, schooner; thyme); *p* (receipt); *s* (aisle, isle, demesne, puisne); *w* (answer, sword).

¹ Alternative spellings are permissible in the case of falcon, pestle, often, soften, fasten, chasten, hasten, christen, in all of which the usually mute consonant is pronounced by some.

Consonant Sounds: Summary

Summary of Suggested Spellings of Consonant Sounds.

<i>Voiced</i>	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Nasal</i>
b as in bin	p as in pin	m as in met
d as in din	t as in tin	n as in net
g as in got	c as in cot	ng as in sing
w as in win	wh as in whim	
v as in vat	f as in fat	
th as in this	th as in thing	
z as in zest	s as in so	
zh as in vizhon	sh as in shoot	
l as in laid	h as in hot	
r as in raid		
y as in yet		

Combinations of consonant sounds.

ng (before *l*, *er*, *w*) as in angl (present spelling angle), anger, langwid (present spelling languid), **nc** as in thane ;
ch as in chat, **j** as in jet.

Note 1.—Double consonants only in compound words, including compounds with prefixes and suffixes, in which the double consonants are pronounced.

Note 2.—Observe that the value of *r* differs according as it is followed by a consonant or by a vowel :

far, *farm*, but *cary* (present spelling carry) ;

for, *form*, but *forest* ;

fur, *furm* (present spelling firm), but *furier* (present spelling furrier).

Note 3.—The letters *k* (=c) and *x* (=cs or gz), and the combinations *ph* (=f) and *qu* (=cw) are omitted as being superfluous.

Vowel Sounds.

The welsh and diphthongs are more difficult to deal with than the consonants, mainly for three reasons:—

(1) Because we have fewer letters at command, in proportion to the sounds to be represented.

(2) Because local and personal varieties of pronunciation are greater in the case of vowels than in the case of consonants.

(3) Because in unaccented syllables vowels become 'obscure,' and thus difficult to represent with any accuracy.

Our first step, however, was pretty clear. We found that in the current spelling the value by far most commonly assigned to the symbols *a, e, i, o, u*, was the short value, as in *bat, bet, pit, pot, but*. In the case of the first four the preponderance of this value is very considerable; it is less marked in the case of *u*. It is clear, then, that to these symbols must be allotted the representation of the so-called short vowel sounds.¹ For the short vowel written *oo* in *good* see p. 40.

Statistics.

Sound **a** in *bat*.

Present spelling : *a, e.g.* cat, happy, very many cases.

Observe *ua* in guarantee.

Suggested spelling : **a.**

Examples: cat, hapi.

Sound **e** in *bet*.

Present spelling : *e, e.g.* bet, very many cases.

ea, e.g. head, 57 cases.

Uncommon : *a*, any, many; *ai*, again(st), said; *ay*, says; *ei*, heifer, leisure; *eo*, jeopard, leopard, feoff; *ie*, friend; *u*, bury.

Observe *ue, e.g.* in guest, 5 cases.

Suggested spelling : **e.**

Examples: bet, hed, meni, sez, hefer, frend, gest.

¹ The only exception that might be made during the period of transition is that where the short *i* sound occurs finally it should be represented, as at present, by *y*: as, for instance, in fishy, apathy, pithy, and all the numberless words ending in *-ly*.

Vowel Sounds

Sound *i* in *pit*.

Present spelling: I. *initially and medially.*

i, e.g. *pit*, very many cases.

y, e.g. *abyss*, many cases.

Uncommon: *ee*, *breeches*; *ei*, *forfeit*, *surfeit*, *foreign*, *sovereign*; *ie*, *kerchief*, *mischief*, *sieve*; unstressed in the *-ies* and *-ied* endings (e.g. *cities*, *envied*); *o*, *women*; *u*, *busy*, *lettuce*, *minute* (subst.); *ui*, e.g. *build*, 10 cases.

II. *finally.*

y, e.g. *pity*, very many cases.

ey, e.g. *barley*, 34 cases.

Uncommon: *ie*, e.g. *prairie*, 7 cases; *e*, *simile*, 8 cases.

Suggested spelling: *i*.

Examples: *pit*, *forin*, *mischif*, *minit*, *bild*, *piti*, *hotli*, *barli*.

Sound *o* in *pot*.

Present spelling: *o*, e.g. *pot*, very many cases.

a after *w*, *wh*, e.g. *swan*, 44 cases.

a after *qu*, e.g. *squad*, 17 cases.

Uncommon: *a* (in other positions), *yacht*.

Observe *io* in *marchioness*.

Suggested spelling: *o*.

Examples: *pot*, *swon*, *sewod*, *yot*.

Sound *u* in *but*.

Present spelling: *u*, e.g. *but*, very many cases.

o, e.g. *mother*, 49 cases:

before *m* (8), *n* (11), *ng* (3), *nk* (2), *r* (1), *s* (1), *th* (5), *v* (16), *z* (2).

ou, e.g. *double*, 18 cases;

and in *-ous* suffix, very many cases.

Uncommon: *oe*, *does*; *oo*, *blood*, *flood*.

Suggested Spelling: *u*.

Examples: *but*, *muther*, *dubl*, *duz*.

The representation of the long vowels and diphthongs is complicated by the fact that their pronunciation varies at the present time, and that they are exposed to change more than the other sounds of the language. ✓

It may at once be stated that this is the great objection to any attempt at their phonetic representation. In this connection we may consider two remarks that have been made by way of criticism :—

“The short *e* in *pet* opens the way to the use, for the corresponding long vowel, of the *ei* already used in many English words like *veil*, etc. For the diphthong in *few*, etc., might be used the existing notation for that diphthong in *feud*, etc.”

“The assignment of *au* to this vowel sound [that in *haul*] would close the opening which still exists for the regulation of our diphthong system, of which *oi* as in *oil* and *oy* as in *boy*, *ai* as in *aisle* and *ay* as in *aye* (yes), *ei* as in *veil* and *ey* in *they*, *eu* in *feud* and *ew* in *few* are constituent parts.”

It may be pointed out, in connection with the former remark, (i) that the vowel part of *veil*, etc., is the long vowel corresponding to *e* in *pet* in the speech of a minority only, and not in educated Southern English, where it is diphthongal, being fairly represented by the [ei] of the International alphabet, though the majority of Southern English speakers have the tongue lower than [ei] implies. When it is pronounced as a long vowel, there is no phonetic justification in writing *ei*.

(ii) That if the spelling *ei* be recommended, because the first part of the diphthong is, in the pronunciation of many, identical with the *e* of *pet*, it seems inconsistent to recommend *eu* for the diphthong (in Southern English a triphthong) in *feud*, for however the middle sounds here be pronounced, the first part is certainly not the *e* in *pet*, but the *y* in *yet*.

With regard to the second remark, it may be said that of the ‘constituent parts of the diphthongal system’ there enumerated, the *ei* and *eu* have been dealt with above, and that the *oi* in *oil* and *ai* in *aisle*, while generally pronounced as

diphthongs, and as such fairly represented by *oi* and *ai*, yet show considerable variations. In particular it may be pointed out that at its end the diphthong does not usually reach the *i* of *bit*; probably it does not as a rule go appreciably beyond the *e* of *pet*.

From what has been said above, it would appear that there are most serious obstacles to any attempt at a phonetic representation of the long vowels and diphthongs. It would assume a uniformity in present usage which does not exist, and an absence of future change which seems inconsistent with what is known of the behaviour of vowels in this and other languages.

In the *Proposals* no attempt was therefore made to bring the representation of long vowels or diphthongs into phonetic agreement with the representation of the short vowels.

The alternative adopted was the representation by means of what was, in most cases, the commonest existing combination of letters. It seemed inadvisable to take the most usual combination in every case; occasionally the individual case had to yield to the general scheme, which it seemed desirable to render as clear and simple as possible.

Before considering other criticisms that have been made on the scheme contained in the *Proposals*, it may be well to deal with the suggestion that the sounds in question should be represented by 'vowel plus consonant plus *e*,' as in *fade*, *cede*, *ride*, *rode*, *rude*. There can be no doubt that this is a very common mode of representing the sounds in question, and it deserves careful consideration. It has indeed no phonetic argument in its favour, and has no parallel in the better-known languages of the present day; but these objections are not grave. The proposal must stand or fall on its merits in practical application.

A few of the resulting spellings will probably suffice to show that the proposal has disadvantages:—

In the first place, it is not clear in what way the sounds in question are to be spelled when final. The logical spelling would be, *e.g.* ‘a + consonant + e’ in *wane*, therefore ‘a + e’ in *plae* (*i.e.* *play*); and, similarly, *see*, *crie*, *goe*. In the plural we should then have *plaze*; in the third singular, *plaze*, *goze*; in the past participle, *plade*, *cride*. If, on the other hand, an existing spelling, *e.g.* *ay*, be suggested when the sound is final, we should have *way*, and plural presumably *wayz* (in accordance with the general rule for the formation of the plural); or *waze*, like *blaze*.

When *-ing* is added to a verb stem, the *e* might remain, *e.g.* *bete* (*i.e.* *beat*), *beteing*; if omitted, the form would be identical with *beting* (*i.e.* *betting*), and to get over this the double consonant would probably have to be retained in the latter case, a welcome piece of simplification being rendered impossible.

In the perfect participle the spelling would be somewhat complicated, as the following examples will show:—

mate: p.p. *mated* (and therefore *mat*: *matted*).

plase (*i.e.* *place*): p.p. *plaset* or *plaste*?

fale (*i.e.* *fail*): p.p. *faled* or *falde*?

ferē (*i.e.* *fear*): p.p. *fered* or *ferde*?

lae (*i.e.* *lay*): p.p. *lade*.

This raises the question what is to be done when two consonants intervene between the vowel and *e*. On the analogy of *waste*, are we to write *plaste*, *beste* (*i.e.* *beast*), *sliste* (*i.e.* *sliced*), *roste* (*i.e.* *roast*)? The difficulty is also noticed in the plural of substantives, *e.g.*:—

bene (*i.e.* *bean*): plural, *benex* or *benze*?

rode (*i.e.* *road*): plural, *rodez* or *rodze*?

and the third singular of verbs, *e.g.*:—

name: 3rd singular, *namez* or *namze*?

fele (*i.e.* *feel*): 3rd singular, *felez* or *felze*?

Again, if we are to write *stranje*, how are we to indicate the diphthong in *stranger*, *strangest*? If *rose* is to be written *roze*, how about *rosy*? What is to be the spelling of *vary*, *various*, *nation*, *serious*, and many similar words?

Taking even these few examples into consideration, it appears that the resulting forms would present very strange combinations, which would hardly prove acceptable. The rules of accident, too, would be less simple than those given in the *Proposals* (see p. 58).

If the use of digraphs (which may be reduced to single letters in certain circumstances) be the best means available of representing long vowels and diphthongs, or sounds which are pronounced as long vowels by some and diphthongs by others, or as diphthongs by some and as triphthongs by others—then we may consider whether the scheme of digraphs suggested in the *Proposals* is the best that can be devised.

The combination of vowel or diphthong with *r*, not followed by a vowel, is variously pronounced by English speakers, and this variation has to be taken into account. It has, however, proved possible to dispense with the combinations *aar*, *aur*, *ear*, *ir*, *ier* (as in *pier*), *oar*, *oor*, *our* (as in *honour*), *yr*. The combinations that remain are *ar* (e.g. *farther*), *air* (e.g. *fair*), *er* (e.g. *fern*), *eer* (e.g. *peer*), *ier* (e.g. *fiery*), *or*¹ (e.g. *for*), *oier* (e.g. *emploier*, present spelling *employer*), *uur* (e.g. *puur*, present spelling *poor*), *our* (e.g. *our*), *ouer* (e.g. *flouer*, present spelling *flower*), *ur* (e.g. *hurt*),² and *yur* (e.g. *pyur*, present spelling *pure*).

¹ See p. 43.

² See p. 45.

The *a* in *father*, *ask*, has not one uniform pronunciation, and some account has to be taken of this fact. Although the digraph *aa* is very rare in the current spelling, it seems necessary to use it. There might be no objection to retaining the present spelling *father*; but if the mute consonant in *calm*, *calf*, etc., is dropped, we should have *cam*, *caf*, forms obviously unacceptable.

Statistics.

Sound **a** in *spa*, *answer*, **ar** in *bar*.

Present spelling: I. *a*, e.g. *father*, many cases.

before *f*, e.g. *after*, *chaff*, 14 cases; *n* + *cons.*, e.g. *advance*, 21; *s*, e.g. *ask*, *class*, 38; *th*, e.g. *bath*, 6; mute *l*, e.g. *half*, 9.

Uncommon: *au*, *aunt*, *draught*, *laughter*.

N.B.—The sound heard in these words in Southern English has disappeared, wholly or in part, from many other forms of English, a front vowel ¹ having been substituted.

II. *ar*, very many cases.

final stressed, e.g. *bar*, 15 cases.

before *b* (12), *c* (2), *ce* (1), *ch* (8), *d* (21), *f* (1), *g* (8), *ge* (4), *k* (13), *l* (10), *m* (10), *n* (13), *p* (9), *s* (7), *sh* (2), *t* (25), *v* (2).

Uncommon: *aar*, *bazaar*; *ah*, *ah*, *bah*; *are*, *are*; *ear*, *hearken*, *heart*, *hearth*; *uar*, *guard*; *er*, *clerk*, *sergeant*.

Suggested spelling: I. On the whole it seems best to use **aa** for the sound heard in Southern English *father*. Where a front vowel is pronounced, the alternative spelling with **a** would be permissible.

II. Although in Southern English there has ceased to be any difference in pronunciation between *a* in *father* and *ar* (e.g. in *farther*), a distinction is made in many English-speaking countries, and the *ar* must therefore be retained (or substituted for *ear* in *heart*, for *uar* in *guard*, etc.).

¹ A front vowel is one for which the 'front' of the tongue is raised. For the *a* of *after* the front of the tongue is slightly raised, in the pronunciation to which reference is here made.

Vowel Sounds

For the sounds represented in *fee*, *fie*, and *foe*, we choose without hesitation the symbols used in these words. *Ee* and *oe* are very familiar in this value, and have no other value in common usage; *ie* has only one other value—as in *pier*, *siege*. Moreover, in the large number of words in which *e*, *i*, and *o* are modified by an *e* following a consonant (for example, *mete*, *mite*, *mote*), the only change required would be the transposition of the *e* from after the consonant to before it (*meet*, *miet*, *moet*). For the sake of economy, however, we suggest that the *e* need not be added to the *e*, *i*, *o* when they occur before a vowel. This rule is of especial value in the case of affixes and inflexions in *er*, *est*, *ing*, etc., etc., not only admitting of great economy, but obviating many awkward conjunctions of vowels. Thus we write *being* (not *beeing*), *flying* (not *flieing*), *going* (not *goeing*). It would seem to be an open question whether the diæresis ought to be employed to distinguish the digraph-vowel *ee*, *ie*, from the same vowel abbreviated before a syllable beginning with *e*.¹ For instance, is it necessary to distinguish *quiet* from *quite*? *hire* from *higher*? It may be left to experience to show whether the advantage of writing *cwiët* and *hiër* compensates for the extra trouble.²

In the case of a few very common monosyllables it is suggested that, in accordance with present usage, the *e* should be dropped, viz., in *I*, *me*, *he*, *she*, *we*, *be*, *the*. To many it would seem preferable to reduce the vowel digraphs, *ee*, *ie*, *oe*, *uu* (see p. 40), in all cases when they would appear at the end of monosyllables; this would lead to many further simplifications such as: *fre*, *se*, *thre*; *bi*, *cri*, *dri*, *fli*, *hi*, *mi*, *whi*; *go*, *no*, *sho*, *so*, *tho*; *blu*, *du*, *hu*, *thru*, *tru*, *tu*. And if these be accepted, a further extension becomes desirable: use the reduced forms whenever the sounds occur at the end of a word.

¹ For some English speakers, notably north of the Tweed, the same difficulty would arise in distinguishing between *more* and *mower*. But it would seem that in Southern pronunciation *more* would be represented by *mor*, *mower* by *moer*.

² It might also prove advisable to employ the diæresis to distinguish the *o-i* of *going* from the diphthong *oi* of *coin*. In current usage this ambiguity gives little trouble; but no doubt a generation accustomed to a fairly consistent sound notation would be more disturbed by such small inconsistencies.

Statistics.

Sound **ee** in *feel*, **eer** in *beer*.

Present spelling : *ee*, e.g. *feel*, 164 cases :

final, e.g. *fee*, 29 cases, -*ee* suffix, 13 cases.
 before *ch* (6), *d* (14), *k* (9), *l* (10), *m* (4), *n* (14), *p* (9), *r* (13 + -*eer* suffix, 15), *t* (10), *ze* (5), sundry (13). (122)

e, e.g. *be*, many cases :

final : *be*, *he*, *me*, *she*, *the*, *we* ;
 before other vowels, e.g. *theory*, many cases ;
 before consonants, e.g. *cedar*, many cases.

ea, 181 cases :

final, e.g. *pea*, 6 cases ;
 before *c* (3), *ch* (10), *d* (7), *k* (16), *l* (20), *m* (12), *n* (8), *p* (5), *r* (20),
s (25), *t* (21), *th* (6), *v* (11), sundry (11). (175)

e + *cons.* + *e*, 58 cases :

ede (5), *eme* (5), *ene* (12), *ere* (14), *ese* (4), *ete* (10), sundry (8).

i, e.g. *police*, 41 cases :

before *n* (23), *qu* (8), sundry (10).

ie, e.g. *chief*, 36 cases, + -*ier* suffix, 20 cases.

Uncommon : *e'e*, *e'en* ; *ei*, *receive*, 7 cases ; *eo*, *people* ; *ay*, *quay* ;
ey, *key*.

Suggested spelling : *ee* ; but *e* before vowels, and in the words *me*, *he*, *she*, *we*, *be*, *the* (or : when final, see p. 36).

Note.—The spelling of the rare word *thee* might remain unchanged.

Examples : *feel*, *peech*, *sinseer*, *polees*, *cheef* ; *theorem*.

Sound **ie** in *cries*, **ier** in *crier*.

Present spelling : *ie*, many cases :

final, e.g. *die*, 7 cases ; 3rd sing. pres. ind. and pret. of verbs in -*y* (13), e.g. *cries*, *cried* + -*fy* verbs (58) ; plur. of substantives in -*y* (5).

i, very many cases :

final : *alibi*, *alkali*, *rabbi* ;

before vowel : *a* (25 + *dia-* prefix, many cases), *e* (8 + -*iety* suffix, 11 cases), *o* (15), *u* (2) ;

before consonant : *ld* (3), *nd* (9), sundry (102).

igh, 24 cases :

final, *e.g.* high, 4 cases ; before *t*, *e.g.* bright (18 cases) ; *eigh*, height sleight.

i + cons. + e, very many cases :

ibe (7), ice (18), ide (21), ife (6), ike (7), ile (20+suffix 40), ime (14), ine (35+suffix 36), ipe (8), ire (26), ise (18+ -ise verbs, many), ite (44), ithe (5), ive (18), ize (3+ize verbs, very many), sundry (13).

y, many cases :

final, *e.g.* cry, 28 cases, and -fy verbs, 58 cases ; not final (words from Greek), many cases.

y + cons. + e, *e.g.* type, 26 cases.

Uncommon : *ai*, aisle ; *ay*, ay (aye) ; *ei*, *e.g.* seismic, 6 cases ; *ey*, geyser ; *ig + n*, *e.g.* sign, 4 cases ; *ig + m*, paradigm ; *oi = wi* in choir (variant spelling : quire) ; *ui + cons. + e*, guide, guile, guise ; *uy*, buy, guy ; *ye*, final, 4 cases ; *eye*, eye.

Suggested spelling : *ie* ; but *i* before vowels and in the word *I* (or: when final).¹

(It may be noted that there is no good reason why we should continue to write the pronoun of the first person with a capital letter.)

Note.—In practice it will probably be unnecessary to use a diæresis in such a word as *diet*, although according to the suggested rule this might represent a word rhyming with *biet* (present spelling bite).

Examples : *criez*, *wiep*, *miend* ; dial.

The representation of the vowel part of *goes*, *road*, etc., by means of *oe* has been objected to by several because of its unfamiliarity. It is indeed not absent from English (as is the case with *ae*), but it is certainly rather less common than *oa*, which, however, is also not in very frequent use. The preponderance of *ai* over *ae* is far greater than that of *oa* over *oe*. The argument of frequency was therefore not greatly in favour of *oa* ; the numerous cases of 'o + consonant + e' favour *oe* rather than *oa* ; and the use of *e* as the second component of *ee*, *ie*, also favoured the selection of *oe*.

¹ See p. 36.

Statistics.

Sound **oe** in *goes*, **oer** in *loer* (= lower).

Present spelling : *oe*, final, *e.g.* toe, 12 cases ; and

before s, goes and plurals of words in *o* and *oe*, many cases.

o, final, *e.g.* cargo, 88 cases ; before consonant, *e.g.* post, 183 cases :

before b (4), c (15 + ocious, 3), d (8), g (5), k (4), l (56), mute l (2), m (12), n (17), p (7), s (11 + osion, 2), t (16 + otion, 5), th (4), v (8), sundry (4).

o before other vowels, *e.g.* boa, sundry cases.

oa, 50 cases :

final, cocoa, halloa ; before ch (6), d (5), k (6), l (4), m (4), n (4), st (4), t (11), sundry (6).

o + *cons.* + *e*, 164 cases :

obe (4), ode (15), ogue (7), oke (13), ole (23), ome (6), one (18), ope (18), ose (12 + suffix, 6), ote (17), ove (13), sundry (12).

ow, 72 cases :

final, *e.g.* arrow, 61 cases ; before n (8), sundry (3).

Uncommon : *au*, hautboy, mauve ; *eau*, *e.g.* bureau, 8 cases ; *eo*, yeoman ; *ew*, sew (shew) ; *oo*, brooch ; *ough*, *e.g.* though, 5 cases ; *ou* + *l*, *e.g.* soul, 10 cases ; *owe*, owe.

Suggested spelling : **oe** ; but **o** before vowels (and when final).¹

Note.—In practice it would probably be unnecessary to add a diæresis in such cases as *going* ; there would be no more danger of confusion with the *oi* sound (as in *coin*) than at present.

Examples : goez, roeb, coest ; heroic.

¹ See p. 36.

The present spelling of the vowel sounds in *good*, *mood*, *hue*, is very unsatisfactory, as will be seen from the statistics on the opposite page. In the original draft of the *Proposals* the following rules were suggested:—

“I. Sound *ue* in *hue*: **ue**, but **u** finally, before vowels and before endings beginning with *l*, *r*, *s*, *t* (-lar, -late, -lent, -lous, -rial, -rian, -rion, -rious, -sion, -tion).

II. Sound *oo* in *good*, *mood*: **oo**;

but after *l*, *r*, *j*, *ch*, *sh*: **ue** (**u** finally, before vowels, and before *l*, *r*, *s*, *t* endings).

(This last suggestion is due to a desire (a) not to anticipate unduly the change which is taking place in many words (*e.g.* absolute), where the *u* tends to become *oo*; (b) not to extend the use of *oo* unduly.)”

We put this forward as a tentative solution of the difficulty, and did not regard it as good. Taking the existing ways of representing the sounds, it was perhaps the best that could be done.

We feel, however, that this is one of the very few cases in which digraphs drawn from the present spelling are inadequate to supply a convenient representation of the sounds, and we therefore accept the suggestion that the long sound in *mood* should be represented by *uu*, leaving *oo* to represent the short sound in *good*.

The sounds in *hue* and regular are best written *yu*, which may be used whether the sounds are long or short, as in the examples given. The only word in which this notation might be inconvenient is the word *young*, which would be written *yung*, but pronounced with *y* as in *yet* and *u* as in *sung*; but this could not give rise to ambiguity, as the sounds *yu* (as in *hue*) never occur before *ng*.

The only exceptions which it seems desirable to make are the preposition *to*, for which we suggest *tu*, and the adjective full (and suffix -ful), for which *ful* is, at least in the period of transition, preferable to *fool*.

In the rare cases when *uu* would precede a vowel, one *u* may be dropped; for instance, in *ruin*, *truer*. Also where the sound occurs at the end of a word (see p. 36).

Statistics.

Sound of *ue* in *hue* and of
ure in *pure*.

Present spelling: *ue*, 26
cases.

u, 334 cases:

final, 3 cases;

before b (13), c (11), d (7), g (4),
l (24) + -ular (47), -ulate (42),
-ulent (14), -ulous (18), m (40),
n (12), p (21), r (34), s (10),
t (24), + -ution (8), sundry
(5).

for final -ur see § 16

before vowel, many cases.

u + *cons.* + *e*, very many cases:

ube (2), uce (4), ude (2 + -tude
suffix, many), uge (3), uke (3),
uble (2), ule (17), ugle (1),
uple (1), ume (9), une (9), upe
(1), ure (21), use (9), ute (25).

Uncommon: *ui*, suit, nuisance;
eu, 19 cases; *ieu*, adieu;
ew, 24 cases; *iew*, view;
eau, beauty; *ewe*, ewe.

Sound of *oo* in *good*, *mood*,
and of *oor* in *poor*.

Present spelling: *ue*, 8 cases:
after r (5), l (3).

u, 87 cases:

final, 2 cases;

before l (9), sh (4), after j (16),
l (15), r (31), sundry (10).

before vowel, 8 cases (after r).

u + *cons.* + *e*, 35 cases:

ube (1), uce (2), ude (7), uke (3),
ule (1), uple (1), ume (3),
une (3), ure (4), ucre (1),
use (3), ute (6)
[of these after r (15), l (13),
j (5), sh (2)].

Uncommon: *ui*, after r (5), l (1),
j (1); *eu*, rheumatism; *ieu*, lieu;
ew, after r (12), l (4), sh (2),
j (2), y (1).

oo, 109 cases:

final, 11 cases; before d (9), f (6),
k (10), l (8), m (11), n (24),
p (12), r (3), t (10), th (4),
sundry (12).

ou, e.g. could, 30 cases:

Uncommon: *o*, final, e.g. do (5); sundry, e.g.
wolf (6).

o + *cons.* + *e*, move, prove, lose,
whose.

oe, shoe, canoe; *oeu*, manoeuvre.
ough, through, brougham.

Vowel Sounds

For the sound represented in *maid* we chose with very slight hesitation the symbol *ai*. A certain appearance of uniformity would have been gained by selecting *ae*, so that four of the five short vowels should have corresponding digraphs formed by the addition of *e*. But the combination *ae* occurs only in Scotch (for instance, *brae*), whereas *ai* is by far the commonest current notation for the sound, if we except the single *a* (often followed by a consonant + *e*), which cannot be made the normal symbol, as it is already appropriated to another use.

Statistics.

Sound *ai* in *maid*, *air* in *fair*.

Present spelling : *ai*, e.g. *maid*, 125 cases :

before *d* (10), *l* (21), *m* (3), *n* or *gn* (stressed : 44, unstressed : 12), *r* (18), *t* (5), sundry (12).

ay, e.g. *bay*, 40 cases.

a, e.g. *lady*, very many cases :

before *b* (5), *c* (11), *d* (7), *g* (12), *l* (11), *m* (15), *n* (13), *p* (14), *r* (11, and in suffixes *-arian*, *-arious*, *-areous*), *s* (7), *t* (very many, note especially *-ation*), *v* (13), sundry (9)

also before vowel, e.g. *chaos*, *mosaic*, many cases.

a + consonant + *e*, e.g. *game*, very many cases :

ace (stressed : 13 cases, unstressed : 7), *ade* (51), *age* (stressed : 11, unstressed : 64), *ange* (5), *ake* (23), *ale* (20), *able* (stressed : 7, unstressed : very many), *ame* (12), *ane* (23), *ape* (14), *are* (25), *ase* (9), *ate* (stressed : 28, unstressed : very many), *aste* (6), *ave* (23), *aze* (11), sundry (14).

Uncommon : (*ae*, Gaelic) ; *ao*, gaol (also jail) ; *au* + cons. + *e*, gauge ; *ea*, e.g. *great*, 10 cases ; *e* + cons. + *e*, *ere*, *there*, *where* ; *e'e*, *e'er*, *ne'er* ; *ei*, e.g. *veil*, 22 cases ; *igh*, e.g. *neigh*, 3 cases ; *ey*, e.g. *obey*, 7 cases.

Suggested spelling : *ai*.

Note.—*e'er*, *ne'er* might remain.

Examples : *maid*, *bai*, *laidi*, *gaim*, *grait*, *thair*.

For the vowel sound in *haul* we propose to retain the notation *au*, which would, of course, be used also where the sound is represented in the current spelling by *aw* (draw, etc.), *ou* (bought, etc.), and other symbols. In common usage the distinction between this sound and the sounds which we represent by *o* and *oe* is not very clearly maintained before *r*. We propose, then, that before that letter they should all be represented simply by *o*.

Those speakers, however, who make a clear distinction between *coral*, *oral*, and *aural*, would be within their rights in contending that this should be recognised, as it could easily be by writing *coral*, *oeral*, and *aural*.

Statistics.

Sound *au* in *haul*.

Present spelling : I. *au*, e.g. haul, 45 cases.

also the words with aunch (4), aund (2), aunt (9), e.g. launch, laundry, haunt, in which some give *au* the value of *a* in father.

a, e.g. bald, 52 cases :

before ld (8), lt (14), ll (13), mute l (7), final l (1), l + various consonants (7), and in water, wrath.

aw, e.g. claw, 54 cases :

final (22), before k (6), l (10), n (12), sundry (4).

Uncommon : *awe*, awe ; *oa*, broad ; *ough*, e.g. bought, 7 cases.

II. *or*, final, stressed, e.g. nor (5), unstressed, very many cases ; before b (6), ce (2), ch (4), d (15), g (1), ge (2), k (4), m (7), n (20), p (6), s (9), t (24), th (3).

ore, e.g. more, 28 cases.

Uncommon : *ar*, quart, war, wharf ; *oar*, e.g. boar, 9 cases ; *o'er*, o'er ; *oor*, door, floor ; *our*, e.g. four, 7 cases, and suffix -our, e.g. honour, 35 cases.

Suggested spelling : *au*, but before *r* write *o*.

Note 1.—*o'er* might remain.

Note 2.—The troublesome distinction exemplified by the spelling *decolour*, but *decolorize* ; *dolour*, but *dolorous* ; *labour*, but *laborious* falls away.

Examples : haul, bauld, clau, braud, baut ;
horn, bor, dor, lorel.

The spelling of the diphthongs *oi* and *ou*, by means of these signs, commends itself at once ; nothing would be gained by retaining the representations *oy* and *ow*, which, though fairly common, do not serve to indicate a pronunciation differing in any way from that of *oi* and *ou*.

Statistics.

Sound *oi* in *coin*, *oier* in *emploier*.

Present spelling : *oi*, e.g. *coin*, many cases :

before *d* (3 + -oid suffix), *l* (13), *n* (6), *nt* (3), *t* (4), sundry (5).

oy, 21 cases :

final, e.g. *boy*, 13 cases ;

before vowel (4) and derivatives of -oy words (4).

Uncommon : *oig*, *coign* ; *uoy*, *buoy*.

Suggested spelling : *oi*.

Examples : *coin*, *boi*.

Sound *ou* in *count*, *our* in *sour*.

Present spelling : *ou*, e.g. *count*, many cases :

before *ch* (6), *d* (4), *nce* (6), *nd* (18), *ount* (7 + counter- prefix), *r* (6), *se* (7), *t* (18), sundry (8).

ow, 58 cases :

final, e.g. *cow*, 12 ; before *l* (8), *el* (6), *n* (9), *er* (9), *s* (5), sundry (11).

Uncommon : *ough*, e.g. *bough*, 4 cases.

Suggested spelling : *ou*.

Examples : *count*, *cou*, *bou*.

There is finally a vowel sound in stressed syllables which is, in many forms of English, closely akin to the vowel in the unstressed syllables in *traveler*. It is spelled *er* in *fern*, *ir* in *fir*, *ur* in *fur*. Although some speakers make a distinction, as a general rule there is the same sound in these words. The choice of *er* (in the first draft of these Proposals) was determined by the fact that *er* is very common as the representation of the unstressed sound ; thus it is regularly added

to verbs in order to express the agent (*e.g.* speaker, learner) and to adjectives for the formation of the comparative, and it occurs in such extremely common words as father, mother, brother, sister. It was proposed, then, to write *cerv* (curve) as well as *serv* (serve), *hert* (hurt) and *dert* (dirt) as well as *pert*, *ferm* (firm) as well as *fern*.

Something, however, may be said for the spelling *ur* in stressed positions and *er* in unstressed endings. This would necessitate a change in fewer words, and would differentiate the stressed and unstressed forms of the sound; compare, in the present spelling, *further*, *murder* *turner*, etc. It would also suggest the relation of this sound to the *u* in *but*.

Statistics.

Sound in *fur*, *father*.

Present spelling : *er*, very many cases :

final (unstressed) very many cases ; before b (5), d (4), ge (6), m (13), n (24), s (15), t (23), sundry (14).

ear, 12 cases.

ir, 46 cases :

final, 7 cases ; before k (7), t (10), th (4), sundry (18).

ur, many cases :

final, 15 + sur- prefix ; before b (10), ch (4), d (8), f (4), g (12), k (4), l (12), n (18), p (5), r (6), s (11), y (10), v (7), sundry (11).

Uncommon : *re*, *e.g.* centre, 21 cases [after b (4), c (4), g (1), ch (2), t (10)] ; *or* (after *w* or *wh*), *e.g.* word, 11 cases ; also in attorney ; *our*, *journ-*, *scourge* ; *olo*, colonel ; *yr*, *e.g.* myrtle, 5 cases.

Suggested spelling : *ur* when stressed, *er* when unstressed.

Examples : *fur*, *furn*, *surli*, *hurt*, *wurd* ; *father*, *senter*.

The treatment of vowels in unstressed endings is difficult. The matter is discussed on pp. 49-52.

Omission of mute vowels.

The scheme of suggested spellings of the vowels implies the omission of the following mute vowels :—

a in *aar* (bazaar); *ea* (head, etc.); *oa* (boar, etc.), (cocoa, etc.).

e in *ea* (heart, etc.); *ei* (forfeit, etc.); *ey* (barley, etc.); *ie* (kerchief, etc.); *oe* (toe, etc.); *ye* (dye, etc.).

Final *e* disappears from the combinations : *a* + *cons.* + *e* (babe, etc.); (are); (mauve); *e* + *cons.* + *e* (cede, etc.), (ewe), (eye); *i* + *cons.* + *e* (ice, etc.); *o* + *cons.* + *e* (ode, etc.), (more, etc.), (move, etc.); *u* + *cons.* + *e* (cube, etc.); *y* + *cons.* + *e* (type, etc.).

i in *ei* (heifer, leisure); *io* (marchioness).

o in *eo* (leopard, etc.); *oo* (door, etc.); *ou* (double, etc.).

u in *au* (draught, etc.); *ua* (guarantee), (guard); *ue* (guest, etc.); *ui* (build, etc.), (guide, etc.); *uy* (buy, etc.); *uoy* (buoy); *ou* (four, etc.), (though, etc.).

In addition to the above, there is a mute final *e* in the following endings, apart from those dealt with above and in connection with double consonants, p. 25; mute consonants (stle, p. 27); consonants requiring change (ce, pp. 15, 19; ge, dge, p. 21).

Stressed vowel + ble (feeble, 3); suffixes -able (capable, very many), -ible (flexible, many), -uble (soluble, voluble, chasuble); -mble (amble, 21); -rble (garble, 3); -acle (oracle, 13); -icle (article, 14); -ocle (monocle); *cons.* + *cle* (uncle, 5); vowel + *dle* (needle, 7); -ndle (candle, 11); -rdle (curdle, 3); -gle (eagle, 5; -ngle, 23); -kle (sparkle; -nkle, 8); vowel + *ple* (triple, 4); -mple (ample, 11); vowel + *tle* (beetle, 4); -ntle (gentle, 3); -rtle (startle, 5); -ine (famine, 24); -se (dense, 74); -ite (definite, 7); -ve (carve, 50); -ive suffix (festive, very many); -ze (baize, 14).

There is also a mute final *ue* (e.g. fatigue) in 15 cases.

Note.—Final *-re* after consonant becomes *-er*, see p. 45.

Summary of Suggested Spellings of Vowel Sounds.

1. a in bat (see p. 29).
2. e in bet (see p. 29).
3. i in pit (see p. 30).
4. o in pot (see p. 30).
5. u in but (see p. 30).
6. oo in good (see p. 40). *N.B.*—tu, ful.
7. aa in faather, ar in far (see p. 35).
8. ee in feel, eer in beer; but e before vowels (see p. 37).¹
N.B.—me, he, she, we, be, the.
9. ie in cries, ier in crier; but i before vowels (see p. 38).¹ *N.B.*—I.
10. oe in goes; but o before vowels (see p. 39).¹
11. uu in fund, uur in puur; but u before vowels (see p. 40).¹ ①
12. yu in hyu, yur in pyur (see p. 40).
13. ai in maid, air in fair (see p. 42).
14. au in haul, or in port (see p. 43).
15. oi in coin, oier in emploier (see p. 44).
16. ou in count, our in sour (see p. 44).
17. ur in fur, er in sister (see p. 45).

¹ And when final (see p. 36).

THE SIMPLIFIED SPELLING IN BRIEF

CONSONANT SOUNDS

bin	pin	din	tin	got	cot
met	net	sing	<i>N.B.</i> —anger,		thane
win	whim	vat	fat	this	thing
zest	so	vizhon	shut	jet	chat
laid	raid	yet	hot		

VOWEL SOUNDS

bat	bet	pit	pot	but	good
faather	far	maid	fair	haul	port
{feel	{die	{foe	{bruud dyu		
{seing	{dial	{going	{ruin		
{we	{mi	{no	{thru		
coin	count		fur	sister	

Vowels in Unstressed Positions.

In ordinary speech the vowels in unstressed positions are often reduced to a dull sound, while in public speaking, and generally when speech is deliberate, as also in the ordinary speech of very precise speakers, a fuller vowel sound may be heard. } a
} e

On the question of how these vowels should be represented, it is probable that two views will be held. There are many who deplore this reduction of the unstressed vowels, and strive to counteract it in their speech. They consider the weaker forms as indicating carelessness, and describe a pronunciation in which they are common as slipshod. It must be confessed, however, that their own speech frequently contains a much larger number of reduced vowels than they are willing to acknowledge.

Others regard this reduction of unstressed vowels as a perfectly legitimate development. They point to kindred languages, such as German, where the spelling has (in the main) kept pace with the pronunciation, and suggest that in English we should not be compelled to utter sounds that indicate an attempt to resuscitate in the spoken language what should long have disappeared from its written form.

These views are obviously irreconcilable; only a considerable period of earnest thought on the part of many about these problems will be likely to turn the balance one way or the other. In the meantime there will probably be some divergence in the spelling of these sounds.

To give some examples: few, if any, make a difference in the pronunciation of the endings *-ent* and *-ant* (as in *latent* and *blatant*), and *-ent* might therefore be suggested as a suitable spelling in all such cases. The same is true of the endings *-ence* and *-ance* (as in *silence* and *constance*), where *-ens* would seem to be the suitable spelling.

Vowel Sounds

The syllables *-ni-*, *-ne-*, and *-ri-*, *-re-* occur frequently in certain endings (*-nial*, *-nian*, *-nious*, etc.), without being differentiated in the spoken language. The forms with *i* are more common than those with *e*; *i* therefore appears preferable in all cases.

[The ending *-nial* occurs in 8 cases (*e.g.* *menial*), *-neal* only in lineal (as usually, only common words are here taken into account). The endings *-nian* and *-nean* are both rare. The ending *-nious* occurs in 9 cases (*e.g.* *ingenious*), *-neous* in 9 cases (*e.g.* *miscellaneous*). The ending *-rial* occurs in 15 cases (*e.g.* *imperial*), *-real* in 5 cases (*e.g.* *funereal*). The ending *-rian* occurs in 12 cases (*e.g.* *barbarian*), *-rean* is rare. The ending *-rious* occurs in 28 cases (*e.g.* *curious*), *-reous* is rare.]

The ordinary pronunciation of the endings *-am* (as in *balsam*) and *-om* (as in *idiom*) is the same; in both cases the vowel is reduced. But here we have a complication: certain of these ✓ words have derivatives (*e.g.* *balsamic*, *idiomatic*), and some may consequently regard it as desirable to retain *-am* and *-om* in the spelling, and perhaps even to restore it in the pronunciation.

[The ending *-am* occurs in 5 cases (*e.g.* *balsam*), *-om* (apart from the *-dom* suffix) in 4 cases (*e.g.* *venom*).]

The ending *-an* is common, even apart from the cases considered under *-nian*, *-rian*, etc., above. The ending *-en* is also very common: and there are many cases of *-on*.

The ordinary pronunciation of these endings is the same; but here also the existence of derivatives (*e.g.* *organ*, *organic*; *canon*, *canonical*) will make some think it inadvisable to use *-en* for all of them, as might otherwise be suggested.

There is no difference in the usual pronunciation of the termination of *label* and *fable*, *chattel* and *cattle*, *chapel* and *apple*, *mantel* and *mantle*; nor in *bridle* and *bridal*, *conventicle* and *identical*, *eagle* and *legal*, *gentle* and *dental*; nor in *gamble* and *gambol*, *thimble* and *symbol*, *idle* and *idol*, *crystal* and *pistol*.

While, however, in the case of *-le* the omission of *e* is desirable and unobjectionable, the omission of the vowel in the remaining endings will not commend itself to some, on account of the derivatives (*e.g.* symbolic, idolatry, legality).

In the case of *-ar*, *-er*, *-or* it would be helpful to the learner if there were only one form (preferably *-er*). A case of special difficulty is presented by the names of agents. Thus we find *jailer* beside *sailor*, *soldier* beside *warrior*, *deliverer* beside *conqueror*, *dissenter* beside *inventor*, *deserter* beside *assertor*, *baker* beside *beggar*, *teacher* beside *scholar*.

To the general use of *-er* some will doubtless object on account of the derivatives (*e.g.*, regularity, professorial); but even these might agree to the use of *-er* in words designating an agent.

In this connection the endings *-art*, *-ert*, *-ard*, *-erd* may be considered. Of these *-art* is rare, *-ert* occurs in some 6 cases, *-ard* in about 30, and *-erd* in the past of the many verbs (at least 90) in *-er*. As there is no difference in pronunciation, it is desirable that *-erd*, *-ert* be used throughout.

Further cases are mentioned in the section on word formation (see pp. 54-57).

In some of the cases just considered, the vowel of the unstressed syllable is the so-called neutral vowel, which is somewhat similar in quality to the (Southern English) sound written *er* in *fern*; the two vowels in *further* are very much alike, except in length.

For this vowel the International alphabet makes use of the symbol *ɜ*, an inverted *e*. This is a very convenient symbol to write.

In other cases the vowel has disappeared altogether; thus in *able*, *label* the sound following the *b* is a syllabic *l*.

There are some other cases, in which the vowel in the unstressed syllable has the value of a short, loose *i*; the second vowel of *lily* is an example of this sound. It is often written *e*, as in the first syllable of *because*, *emit*, *return*, *demand*, *prevent*, and in the second syllable of *houses*, *goodness*. Some speakers incline to give this *e* the value of *e* in *bed*, and many more are under the impression that they do so; and for the present the spelling with *e* may be retained. The same vowel sound is heard in the unstressed syllables of *cottage*, *manage*, etc., and of *mountain*, *captain*. Those who are familiar with the fact will prefer to write the endings of such words *-ij* and *-in* (e.g. *manij*, *mountin*), forms which will appear strange to those who have not realised what the pronunciation really is.

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN CONNECTION WITH WORD FORMATION.

(a) *Prefixes.*

It is desirable that these should have a fixed form, in spite of variations in the pronunciation of the vowel; thus *pro-* should still be written in *protest* (noun) as well as *protest* (verb), in *produce* (noun) as well as in *produce* (verb). The following prefixes would retain their present form :

a- ab- abs-	contra- counter-	in- im-	pro
ad-	de- ¹	inter-	re- ¹
ana-	demi-	mal- male-	retro-
ante-	di-	meta-	semi-
anti-	dia-	mis-	sub-
apo-	dis-	non-	trans-
auto-	e- ¹	ob-	un-
be- ¹	en-	pan- panto-	under-
bene-	epi-	para-	up-
bi- bis-	for-	per-	with-
co- com- con-	hemi-	pre- ¹	

The following prefixes would be changed :

arci- [present spelling archi-]	sin- [present spelling syn-]
bac- [present spelling back-]	syuper- [present spelling super-]
hieper- [present spelling hyper-]	ser- [present spelling sur-]
oever- [present spelling over-]	sercum- [present spelling circum-]

The following prefixes would have two forms, according to the pronunciation :

- arc- and arch- (present spelling arch-).
- ecs- and egz- (present spelling ex-).
- ecwi- and eecwi- (present spelling equi-).
- hipo- and hiepo- (present spelling hypo-).

¹ See p. 52.

Effect of the Changes

(b) Endings.

Here the changes are more numerous than in the case of the prefixes, mainly owing to the presence of mute letters in the current spelling.

The difficulties connected with the representation of vowels in unstressed syllables have been referred to above, and a number of endings were mentioned. These are marked with an asterisk in the following lists. The forms given in square brackets would probably be preferred by those who do not object on principle to the reduction of the vowels, and, indeed, regard it as a sign of progress in language.

The following endings contain long vowels or diphthongs, and no difficulty arises as to their spelling :

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
-ate	-ait	imitait
-ane	-ain	mundain
-ee	-e	refere
-ene, -ine	-een	screen, crinoleen
-eer, -ier	-eer	charioteer, gondoleer
-fy	-fi	magnifi
-ile	-iel ¹	hostiel
-ine	-ien	divien
-ise, -ize	-iez	authoriez, dogmatiez
-oid	-oid	tabloid
-ose	-oes	moroos
-tude	-tyud	magnityud

The following endings contain short *i* or *y*, and here too no difficulty arises :

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
-cy, -sy	-si	legasi, heresi
-fic	-fic	prolific

¹ Those who pronounce this ending with short *i* will write it *-il*.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
*-ial, -eal	-ial	menial, corporial
*-ian, -ean	-ian	barbairian
-ic	-ic	comic
-ice	-is	justis
-ine	-in	heroin
-ish	-ish	childish
-ism	-izm	critisizm
-ist	-ist	botanist
-ity	-iti	breviti
-ive	-iv	pensiv
-kin	-cin	napcin
-ling	-ling	darling
-ly	-li	frendli
-ry	-ri	pedantri
-ship	-ship	lordship
-trix	-tries	inheritrics
-y	-i	wooli

The following endings contain vowels not subject to change :

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
-asm	-azm	fantazm
-ful	-ful (see p. 40)	plentiful
-hood	-hood	manhood
-logue	-log	epilog

No one would object to the dropping of *e* from the endings *-ble*, *-cle*, *-dle*, *-gle*, *-kle*, *-ple*, *-tle*, *e.g.* :

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
-ble	-bl	vizibl
-cle	-cl	oracl
-ple	-pl	multipl

The endings *-al*, *-el*, *-ol* were discussed on p. 50.

Effect of the Changes

In the following endings *e* will be retained :

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
-ment	-ment	raiment
-meter	-meter	thermometer
-ster	-ster	songster

In the following endings many will prefer to write the forms with *e* (in square brackets) even where the present spelling has other vowels :

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
* { -an	-an [-en]	veteran [veteren]
{ -en	-en	strengthen
{ -on	-on [-en]	vizhon [vizhen]
* { -ant	-ant [-ent]	servant [servent]
{ -ent	-ent	eminent
* { -ar	-ar [-er]	familiar [familier]
{ -er	-er	coiner
{ -or	-or [-er]	captor [capter]
{ -ary	-ari [-eri]	infurmari [infurmeri]
{ -ery	-eri	archeri
{ -ory	-ori [-eri]	prefatori [prefateri]
* { -ard	-ard [-erd]	mustard [musterd]
{ -erd	-erd	halberd
* { -art	-art [-ert]	bragart [bragert]
{ -ert	-ert	filbert
-wardz	wordz [-werdz]	upwordz [upwerdz]
{ -ture	-tyur [-cher]	naityur [naicher]
{ -ssure	-shyur [-sher]	preshyur [presher]

* These were discussed on pp. 50, 51.

In the following endings many will prefer to write the forms with *e* (in square brackets):

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
-dom	-dom [-dem]	freedom [freedom]
-logy	-loji [-leji]	antholoji [antholeji]
-oc, ock	-oc [-ec]	buloc [bulec]
-ous	-us [-es]	vishus [vishes]
-some	-sum [-sem]	handsum [handsem]

In the following endings many will prefer to write the forms with *i* (in square brackets):

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Suggested Spelling.</i>	<i>Examples.</i>
{-age	-aj [-ij]	manaj [manij]
{-ege, -edge	-ej [-ij]	privilej [privilij]
-ed	-ed [-id]	greeted [greetid]
-es	-ez [-iz]	houzez [houziz]
-ess	-es [-is]	empres [empris]
-less	-les	heedles [heedlis]
-let	-let	ringlet [ringlit]
-ness	-nes [-nis]	meennes [meennis]
-est	-est [-ist]	sweetest [sweetist]

(c) *Changes in the Stem.*

Generally speaking, it is desirable that derivatives should keep the stem of the main word from which they are derived unchanged, or changed but little, so that the connection may be obvious.

No attempt has been made to classify all cases, but a few examples may be given to show that in some cases the proposed changes would tend to obscure the connection, while in other cases they would render it clearer. It is probable that the latter outnumber the former.

Effect of the Changes

(i) *Some cases in which the proposed changes tend to obscure the connection between related words :*

<i>Present Spelling.</i>		<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	
say	says	sai	sez
vice	vicious	vies	vishus
will	would	wil	wood

(ii) *Some cases in which the proposed changes tend to make more similar the stem in related words :*

<i>Present Spelling.</i>		<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	
bid	bidding	bid	biding
cat	kitten	cat	citen
complex	complicate	complex	complicait
duke	ducal	duec	duecal
gay	gaiety	gai	gaieti
propel	propelling	propel	propeling
speak	speech	speec	speech
vicious	vitiate	vishus	vishiait

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE RULES OF THE ACCIDENCE.

(a) Inflexion of Nouns (genitive, plural) and verbs (3rd sing. pres. indic.); (b) plurals in -en and irregular plurals; (c) Adjectives: degrees of comparison; (d) Formation of Adverbs; (e) Verb: form in -ing; (f) Verb: formation of past and of perfect participle of weak verbs; (g) Verb: formation of past and of perfect participle of strong verbs.

The addition of inflexions follows certain rules to be found in all grammars. These would be to some extent modified

if the proposed changes were adopted, and would run as follows :

(a) *Inflexion of nouns (genitive, plural) and verbs (3rd sing. pres. indic.)* :

	<i>Noun.</i>	<i>Verb.</i>
When the stem ends in a voiceless sound other than <i>s, sh, ch</i> : <i>add s</i>	cats	hits
When the stem ends in a voiced sound other than <i>z, j</i> , or in a vowel digraph (<i>ai, oi, au, ou</i>) : <i>add z</i>	dogz daiz boiz clauz bouz	bidz paiz emploiz drauz bouz

The vowel digraphs *ee, ie, oe, uu*, which are reduced to *e, i, o, u* when final, resume their full form when *z* is added, *e.g. cri : criez, go : goez*.

When the stem ends in <i>s, sh, ch, z</i> or <i>j</i> : <i>add ez</i>	horsez dishez aijez	praizez cachez waijez
---	---------------------------	-----------------------------

Special cases :

Nouns in *f* have *fs* in genitive,
fs or *vz* in plural.

The plural of *hous* is *houzez*.

There are a few plurals in *-en* :

ocs : *ocsen* ; *chield* : *children*.

Irregular plurals :

man : men	foot : feet	mous : mies
wooman : wimen	guus : gees	lous : lies
	tuuth : teeth	

Effect of the Changes

Note 1.—There is nothing in the spoken language corresponding to the apostrophe in the genitives *dog's*, *dogs'*, and its absence is not missed. In the written language there is no more need for it than in the spoken. If it be argued that there are cases in which its omission would lead to ambiguity, the obvious answer is that the 'Saxon' genitive is inappropriate in such cases, as the passage if read aloud would be ambiguous, and every written passage should bear reading aloud without obscurity of meaning.

Similarly, the apostrophe in 'for conscience' sake' may well be omitted.

Note 2.—For the treatment of the ending *-es*, see p. 57.

(b) *Adjectives.* The degrees of comparison are formed by adding *-er*, *-est*, e.g. :

fair	fairer	fairest	hi	hier	hiest
larj	larjer	larjest	sili	silier	siliest
hot	hoter	hoteſt	fre	freer	freest
tru	truer	trueſt	lo	loer	loest
fyu	fyuer	fyueſt			

Note.—For the treatment of the ending *-est*, see p. 57.

(c) *Formation of Adverbs :*

to the adjective add *-li*, e.g. bad : badli ; vain : vainli ;
but if it ends in *l* add *-i*, e.g. final : finali ; teribl : teribli.
The adverbs hoelli (= wholly), soelli (= solely) have *ll*.

(d) *Verb : form in -ing :*

No rules required.

Examples : propel, propeling ; se, seing ; fli, fliing ; go, going.

(e) *Verb : formation of past tense and perfect participle of weak verbs :*

Rule : add *t* or *d* (*ed* after *d*, *t*), according to sound.

Note.—For the treatment of the ending *-ed*, see p. 57.

Special cases :

(i) With *e* in past :

breed : bred	ceep : cept	creep : crept	deel : delt
dreem : dremt	feed : fed	feel : felt	flee : fled
leed : led	leen : lent	leep : lept	leev : left
meen : ment	meet : met	neel : nelt	reed : red
sleep : slept	speed : sped	sweep : swept	weep : wept

Note.—It is instructive to compare the simplicity of these forms with the confusing variety which they show in the present spelling.

Note : sai : sed.

(ii) with *au* in past :—

bi : baut	bring : braut	cach : caut	seec : saut
beseech : besaut	teech : taut	thinc : thaut	

(iii) luuz : lost shu : shod.

Note : hav : had.

(*g*) *Verb* : formation of past tense and perfect participle of strong verbs. (The present spelling of the infinitive is given in brackets).

(abide)	abied	aboed	aboed
(awake)	awaic	awoec	awoec
(bear)	bair	bor	born
(behold)	behoeld	beheld	beheld
(bid)	bid	bad	biden
		bid	bid
(bind)	biend	bound	bound
(blow)	blo	blu	bloen
(chide)	chied	chid	chiden
(choose)	chuuz	choez	choezen
(cleave)	cleev	claiu	cloev(en)
(crow)	cro	eru	[croed]
(come)	cum	caim	cum
(dig)	dig	dug	dug

Effect of the Changes

(draw)	drau	dru	draun
(drive)	driev	droev	driven
(drink)	drinc	dranc	drunc
(eat)	eet	et	eeten
(fly)	fi	flu	floen
(fling)	fling	flung	flung
(forget)	forget	forgot	forgoten
(forsake)	forsaic	forsooc	forsaicen
(get)	get	got	got
(give)	giv	gaiv	given
(grow)	gro	gru	groen
(hang)	hang	hung	hung
(hew)	hyu	[hyud]	hyun
(lade)	laid		laiden
(lie)	li	lai	lain
(mow)	mo	[moed]	moen
(rive)	riev		riven
(ring)	ring	rang	rung
(wring)	ring	rung	rung
(see)	se	sau	seen
(seethe)	seeth	sod	soden
(sow)	so	[soed]	soen
(shake)	shaic	shooc	shaicen
(shear)	sheer	[sheerd]	shorn
(shine)	shien	shon	shon
(show)	sho	[shoed]	shoen
(shrink)	shrinc	shranc	shrunc
(sing)	sing	sang	sung
(sink)	sinc	sanc	sunc
(sit)	sit	sat	sat
(slay)	slai	slu	slain
(slink)	slinc	slunc	slunc
(smite)	smiet	smoet	smiten
(spin)	spin	spun	spun

Accidence

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(stand)	stand	stood	stood
(steal)	steel	stoel	stoelen
(stride)	stried	stroed	striden
(strive)	stried	stroev	striven
(swear)	swair	swor	sworn
(swell)	swel	[sweld]	swoelen
(tear)	tair	tor	torn
(thrive)	thriev	throev	thriven
(throw)	thro	thru	throen
(wake)	waic	woec	woec
(wear)	wair	wor	worn
(weave)	weev	woev	woeven
(win)	win	wun	wun

Note :

(be)	be	woz	been
(go)	go	went	gon

**WORDS NOW DIFFERING IN SPELLING TO WHICH
THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD GIVE THE
SAME FORM.**

(a) In a number of cases the present spelling differentiates words which are pronounced alike. In the spoken language no difficulty arises, as the context makes it clear which meaning is intended.

It is sometimes urged against attempts to simplify the spelling that words now spelled differently would, in a simplified spelling, become identical in form. This is, of course, true; but there is no force in the argument. It may fairly be expected that what is written should bear reading aloud; and if a passage, when read aloud, is ambiguous owing to a word being used which in the spoken language has two meanings, it is a just criticism that the passage is badly written.

In fact, however, such cases are extremely rare; and a consideration of the examples given below will show that the meanings are so divergent that it would be tolerably difficult to construct sentences in which ambiguity would arise from this cause.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Simplified Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Simplified Spelling.</i>
aught, ought	aut	knight, night	niet
bare, bear	bair	knot, not	not
be, bee	be	know, no	no
bean, been	been	knows, nose	noez
bogie, boggy	boegi	meat, meet	meet
born, borne	born	peace, piece	pees
canvas, canvass	canvas	practice, practise	practis
coarse, course	cors	praise, prays, preys	praiz
cockscorb, coxcomb	cocscoem	reck, wreck	rec

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Simplified Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Simplified Spelling.</i>
dew, due	dyu	right, rite, write	riet
die, dye	di	rote, wrote	roet
draftsman, draughtsman	draafdsman	rung, wrung	rung
fair, fare	fair	rye, wry	ri
grate, great	grait	scent, sent	sent
hart, heart	hart	sight, site	siet
heard, herd	hurd	son, sun	sun
hour, our	our	stake, steak	staic
knave, nave	naiv	steal, steel	steel
knead, need	need	taught, taut	taut
knew, new	nyu	weak, week	weec
		wood, would	wood

Note.—The only case in which ambiguity would arise (at least in Southern English) appears to be that of *oral* and *aural*, and this difficulty is naturally felt in the spoken language. If both words are retained (and it seems very desirable to adopt a substitute for the latter), the form *aural* would probably have to remain unchanged. See the note on p. 43.

(b) Less numerous, without doubt, are the cases in which the present spelling represents in the same way words which differ in pronunciation. Here the simplified spelling naturally shows a difference of form. Some examples are contained in the following list:—

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Simplified Spelling.</i>
abuse (noun, verb)	abyus, abyuz
bow (noun, verb)	bo, bou
house (noun, verb)	hous, houz
lead (verb, noun)	leed, led
lower (adj., verb)	loer, louer
read (present, preterite)	reed, red
row (of houses; uproar)	ro, rou
slough (noun, verb)	slou, sluf
sow (verb, noun)	so, sou

(c) A third and by no means inconsiderable list might be drawn up of words which according to the present spelling have the same form and are pronounced alike. A few examples may be given :—

art (thou art ; the art)	found (to found ; past of to find)
bear (to bear ; a bear)	lie (to lie down ; to tell a lie)
bound (to bound ; past of to bind)	spoke (he spoke ; a spoke)
fell (past of to fall ; adj.)	stole (he stole ; a stole)
felt (past of to feel ; noun)	well (a well ; adv.)

NOTE ON THE SPELLING OF COMPOUND WORDS.

The treatment of compound words in English is very inconsistent, and presents many difficulties to the learner.

The only authority is the dictionary, and even the New English Dictionary shows many inconsistencies, a few of which have been given in the appended list. It is not an exaggeration to say that no educated person would write out all these words from dictation in the form approved by the N.E.D.

As a further example of inconsistencies met with in that dictionary may be mentioned the treatment of words compounded with *co-* ; thus we find : *coarticulate*, *coefficient*, *coeternal* without hyphens, *co-education*, *co-operate*, *co-ordinate* with hyphens.

Compound Words

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Examples of the spelling of compound words in the New English Dictionary.

<i>Hyphen.</i>	<i>One Word.</i>	<i>Two Words.</i>
heather-bell		blue bell
book-keeping	bookbinding	
ice-cream	buttermilk	
by-lane, -road, -street	bypath	
cat's-cradle	cockscomb	cat's paw
lamb's-wool		lamb's fry
coal-field	cornfield	
counter-claim	counterbalance	
grand-niece	granddaughter	
half-crown	halfpenny	
honey-bee	honeycomb	
horse-tail	horsehair	
home-brewed	homespun	
house-agent	householder	
hare-lip	humpback	
horse-radish		kidney bean
farm-house	lighthouse	
knick-knack	gewgaw	
	highway	high road
horse-fly	foxhound	
lock-out		look out
long-hand	shorthand	

It is suggested that when a compound word has the chief stress on the first part (as in coalfield, shorthand) it should be written in one word, without hyphen; and that when both parts are stressed (as in horse radish, ice cream) they should be separated, also without hyphen.

Specimens of Simplified Spelling.

[In the following passage the vowels in the unstressed syllables have been treated in a conservative spirit (see p. 49).]

Objecshonz tu a Chainj in the Speling.

We instinctivli shrinc from eni chainj in whot iz familiar; and whot can be mor familiar than the form ov wurdz that we hav seen and riten mor tiemz than we can posibli estimait? We taic up a booc printed in America, and *honor* and *center* jar upon us everi tiem we cum acros them; nai, even tu se *forever* in plais ov *for ever* attracts our atenshon in an unplezant wai. But theez ar iesolaited caizez; thinc ov the meni wurdz that wood hav tu be chainjd if eni real impruuvment wer tu rezult. At the furst glaans a pasij in eni reformd speling loocs "cweer" or "ugli." This objecshon iz alwaiz the furst tu be maid; it iz purfectli natyural; it iz the hardest tu remuuv. Indeed, its efect iz not weecend until the nyu speling iz no longer nyu, until it haz been seen ofen enuf tu be familiar.

The second objecshon ofen urjd iz that wurdz which sound aliec but hav at present a diferent speling, wood no longer be distingwishabl, and confyuzhon wood ariez. *Night* and *knight*, *right*, *write* and *rite*, for instans, wood hav tu be spelt in the saim wai. But whot ov that? Aafter aul, whot iz riten shood bair reeding aloud. Ar we unsurtain in the spoecen langwij whether *night* or *knight* iz ment in eni particyular contect? Cood yu maic up sentensez in which thair wood be ambigyuiti, in which, for instans, *right*, *write* and *rite* wood eech giv sens? Eeven in the langwij az it iz nou spelt caizez ov wurdz iedentical in form but diferent in meening ar not rair; *art* mai be a noun or a vurb (*thou art*), *bound* mai be an infinitiv or a paast tens, *bear* mai be a noun or a vurb. Further, thair ar caizez in which the present speling haz iedentiti ov form, aultho thair iz diferens ov pronunsiashon (which in a consistent speling wood neselitait diferens ov form); e.g., *lead* (vurb) and *lead* (noun),

row (ov houzez) and *row* (cworel), *read* (prezent) and *read* (paast).

The aanser, then, tu this objecshon iz that whot givz no trubl in the spoecen langwij can not giv trubl in its riten form; and that if in wun or tu caisez trubl aroez, it wood be counterbalanst bi the avoidans of ambigyuiti in uther caisez.

The objecshon to which moest wait iz jenerali atacht iz the "etimolojical": a chainj ov speling wood obscyur the derivaishon. It miet sufies tu point tu the fact that Profesor Skeat, huuz syupreem pozishon among English scolarz iz yuniversali recogniezd, haz long been a champion ov speling reform; tu meni this wil seem a sufishent aanser. But thair iz so much misaprehenshon on this point, and such strainj staitments ar maid, that it becumz nesessari tu deel with this objecshon in sum deetail.

We recwier the langwij az an instrooment; we mai aulso studi its histori. The prezens of unpronounst leterz, thre or for diferent waiz ov representing the saim sound, thre or for yusez ov the saim leter: aul this detracts from the valyu ov a langwij az an instrooment. When we plais this instrooment in the hand ov the chield, we du not at the saim tiem teech it historical gramar.

Again, let us not forget hu form the grait majoriti ov thoez that lurn tu reed and riet. Thai ar the children that atend elementari scuulz; thair tiem iz limited. We hav no riet tu impoez on them a caiotic speling for the saic ov posibli teeching them a litl historical gramar.

But it mai be sed that it iz misleading tu speec in this conecshon of historical gramar; that it iz the derivaishon that iz obscyurd, and that this iz a real los. Whot iz ment iz, that it wil becum les eezi tu connect the English wurdz with French or Latin wurdz and with Teutonic wurdz.

It must be born in miend that the mas ov the naishon lurnz no forin langwijez, and the oportyunitiz for comparison ar wonting. But let us consider the cwiet apreeshiabl number ov

thoez hu no wun or several forin langwijez; wil thai not luuz sumthing if the connecshon between English and forin wurdz iz obseyurd?

Our vocabylari haz meni elements; but in the main it consists ov wurdz ov Teutonic orijin and wurdz which go bac, directli or indirectli, tu Latin. A larj number of the derivativz from Latin (probabli the grait majoriti) present litl difficulti; thai hav undergon comparativli litl soundchainj sins thai enterd the langwij. A reezonabl simplified speling wood leev them veri much az thai ar nou. (Thus, selecting wurdz from this paragraaf, thair iz seen tu be litl or no chainj in *vocabylari, element, consist, orijin, directli, derivativ, probabli, majoriti*,—no chainj calcyulaited tu obseyur the derivaishon.)

The wurdz that giv trubl ar the wurdz ov Teutonic orijin. Theez. (speeing cwiet jenerali) wood recwier much mor ecstensiv chainjez in eni sceem ov simplified speling. The *h* of *knave* wood disapeer, and the connecshon with the German *Knabe* wood becum les obvius; the omishon ov *gh* from *night* maies the wurd les liec *Nacht*. Undoutedli thair iz a fair number ov wurdz that belong tu this categori.

Asyuming that the obseyuring ov derivaishonz went much farther than it iz liecli tu du in eni aceptabl sceem ov simplified speling, duz this reprezent a los?

Befor repliing, it mai be wel tu consider anuther objecshon which iz ofen urjd: the introdueshon ov anuther speling wood maic aul the egzisting boocs yusles. I am not cwiet cleer whi this objecshon shood be so redili urjd; for shuerli it iz cwiet unreezonabl. The introdueshon ov a nyu speling iz not the wurc ov daiz or weecs; it wood be imposibl (even if it wer dezierabl) at wuns tu suplie in the nyu speling aul the boocs that ar wonted, and tu remuuv aul the oeld boocs in the oeld speling. Everibodi wood be aibl to reed the oeld speling without difficulti; thoez braut up on the nyu speling wood be familiar with the oeld, tho thai wood hardli looc upon it with admiraishon.

Tu the lurner interested in the histori ov the langwij the oeld speling wood be eezili acesibl ; far mor eezili than the speling ov Chaucer or eeven Shakespeare. He wood be aibl tu trais derivaishonz cwiet az eezili az nou ; and he wood enjoi this grait advaantaj, that he cood not escaip the soundz and deel with leterz oenli—which iz at present so seerius a dainjer in the paath ov the yung styudent ov langwij. He wood aase himself again and again whi the oeld speling (unlic the nyu) deeviaited so freecwentli from the pronunsiashon. Whot he nou acsepts without thincing he wood analiez and egzamin. The studi ov filoloji iz bound tu gain grait advaantij when the speling ov a langwij iz a fair reprezentaishon ov the soundz.

I hav not yet directed atenshon to the fact that the present speling iz not aulwaiz a saif gied in materz ov derivaishon. Those hu thinc that the speling shood not oenli reprezent the soundz, but aulso sujest the orijin ov the wurd, shood surtainli not continyu tu riet with the present misleading speling *scent*, *sovereign*, and meni uther wurdz ; and if a sielent *b* iz cept in *debt* “tu shoe the derivaishon,” whi not insert a sielent *c* in *lettuce* (from *lactuca*)? and if *ph* iz cept in *philosophy* tu shoe that the wurd cumz from the Greec, whi not be consistent and riet *phancy*? A simplified speling wood giv us *sent*, not *scent*, and wood thus present a form etimolociali, az wel az foneticali, mor corect ; it wood giv us *det*, not *debt*, which again wood be mor corect, for the wurd iz derievd directli from French *dette*, and oenli indirectli from Latin *debita* ; and az for the *ph*, wil it be maintaind that the Italian hu riets *filosofia* iz on that acount les liecli than we ar tu noe that the wurd iz derievd from the Greec ?

Tu sum up the aanser tu the “etimolocial” objecshon. The langwij az an instrooment wood be impruuvd bi the adopshon ov a simplified speling ; for purposez ov studi the present speling wood stil be abundantli availabl. The connecshon ov form between English and French or Latin wurdz wood be veri litl obseyurd in the nyu speling ; wurdz ov

Simplified Spelling

Teutonic orijin wood hav tu be chainjd mor, but the styudent compairing, let us sai, English and German wood be in no wai inconveeniens.

The laast objecshon that I hav hurd—and tu mi miend it hardli dezervz menshon—iz that it iz good disiplin tu maic children lurn such a speling az ourz. I shood be the laast tu dezier the weecening ov wil or the relacsing ov efort in our scuulz ; but I hav no simpathi with the ieeda that dificultiz hav an intrinsic valyu. We du not teeche children tu riet with thair feet, becauz ov the moral and intelectyual advaantajez tu be gaind from oevercuming dificultiz. We teeche them tu grapl with dificultiz becauz in the proses certain valyuabl pouerz ar being ecsersiezd—becauz thair iz sum definit end tu bi ataind when the dificultiz ar oevercum. We giv them practis in drauing deducshonz, in formyulaiting ruulz, in apliing them. Whot ov aul this iz thair in the teeching ov the curent speling? We hav tu sai: *b e d* spelz *bed*, and *h e a d* spelz *head*. If the chield aases: whi not *h e d*? we can giv no reezon. Thair iz no ruul tu gied the chield. The soundz du not help. This iz a dificulti for the chield and remainz a dificulti until repetishon haz maid the unreezonabl speling *head* familiar. Whot haz been the gain? It wood be hard tu sai ; but the los iz obvius ; tiem and efort hav been spent which miet hav been beter emloid utherwiez.

[It will be noticed that *-i* is used for final *-y*, and that “apply” is therefore spelt *aplie* ; see below, p. 76.]

[In the following passage the vowels in unstressed syllables are given the value usual in the spoken language, *e* and *i* being used to represent the vowels in unstressed prefixes and endings, and *the* remaining unchanged even when pronounced *thi*.]

At the outset ov scuul lief, we hav tu giv the chield an in-strooment ov the moest vairid yutiliti. Reeding and rieting ar the cee tu aul subsecwent wurc. Yet this veri subject iz in its prezent form aultugether unedyucaishenel. The chield is toeld that thair iz *i* (pronounst az a difthong) in *bind*; that seemz reezenebl. But he aulso meets with *i* in *bid* (whair thair iz a simpl short vouel, veri diferent from the difthong). Similerli we sai thair iz *o* in *go*; but we aulso sai thair iz *o* in *gone*, and in *done*. We teeche the chield that the leter *l* standz for the sound *l*; but in *could* we iesplain that it standz for nuthing. We maic inormes claimz on the memeri; we dimaand acyuresi at the iespens ov inormes efert. In order tu fies in the miend spelings tu which the soundz aloen ofer no adicwit giedens we hav tu ripeet again and again. It iz heer that tiem iz waistid with no coresponding edyucaishenel advaantij.

PARTIAL ADOPTION OF THE SCHEME FOR PROVISIONAL USE.

Some friends of the movement for simplified spelling may wish to give it their support by adopting in their letters (and perhaps in print) certain obvious simplifications which are in accordance with the suggested scheme, preferring to wait until the scheme is more widely known before they adopt it in its complete form. The following rules are suggested for provisional use:

1. Drop silent letters when this does not involve a change of pronunciation; *e.g.* write *dout* for *doubt*, *activ* for *active*, *definit* for *definite*, *program* for *programme*, *pich* for *pitch*, but not *brit*

for *bright*. (Do not adopt *brite*, which is contrary to the spelling *ie* suggested for the diphthong in the scheme.)

2. Where a consonant is doubled in a simple word (not in a compound) drop one letter, when this does not involve a change in pronunciation; *e.g.* write *batl* for *battle*, *teror* for *terror*, *begining* for *beginning*, but keep the two letters in *coattail*, *lamppost*, *interrupt*, *batted*, *latter*. (The forms *bated*, *later* in the present spelling do not have this value, and confusion would arise.)

3. Write *t* in place of the ending *ed* of many verbs, whenever *t* represents the pronunciation; *e.g.* *past* for *passed*, *prest* for *pressed*.

4. Substitute *f* for *ph*.

In the following passage these rules have been adopted. Their adoption may prove to indicate the readiness to accept change, but (as this passage shows convincingly) the net gain to the child learner would be trifling.

It is idle for the highly educated to retort that they do not remember any effort on their part when they learnt to spel. We must think of the bulk of the nation, the thousands and tens of thousands who atend our elementary scools and come to scool with the very poorest intelectual equipment. Children from refined homes and the children of the poor do not start with the same groundwork of nolege, the same vocabulary, or the same powers of observation and reasoning. The scool life of the great majority of these children is regretablely short. There is much that we ought to teach them for which we lac the time. If we coud realy simplify the task of speling, how much time this woud set free for reading! If we giv them a simpl but equally efectiv instrument, we can devote our atention to the use to which it can be put.

APPENDIX TO THE FOURTH EDITION

A SCHEME based on these *Proposals* was adopted by the Simplified Spelling Society towards the end of 1911, and has been extensively subjected to criticism, as may be seen from the pages of the "*Pioneer of Simplified Spelling*," the Society's monthly journal, first issued in March, 1912.

The following notes embody some of the more important criticisms of detail that have been made; there have been no serious attempts to invalidate the principles which underlie these *Proposals*. That some critics should regard the scheme as too radical and others as too conservative, was only to be expected.

C or K (p. 8): A good many have expressed their preference of *k*, on the ground (a) that its present value is unambiguous, (b) that it is a tall letter, and hence of value in giving words a characteristic form. See *Pioneer*, No. 2, p. 23.

Y (p. 16): The use of final *y* (as in *very*) has been objected to by many; see below.

TH (p. 17): Several have expressed the opinion that *dh* should be adopted for the voiced sound.

NG (p. 18): Attention has been drawn to the disadvantage of using *ng* in *linger* as well as in *singer*, in *longer* as well as in *long*.

Vowel plus consonant plus e (p. 32): No well-considered attempt has been made to urge the adoption of this method of designating long vowels and diphthongs.

AR (p. 35): It has been pointed out that the spelling of *starry* and *tarry* (adj. of *tar*) presents difficulty. There seem to

be two ways of indicating the pronunciation : *staari, taari*, or *starri, tarri*.

Reduction of Digraphs (p. 36) : Little objection has been raised to the reduction of a digraph before another vowel (*seing, ruin, etc.*). It has, of course, been noticed that *quite* and *quiet* would both become *cwiet* (as is mentioned on p. 36), and that the spelling *miety*, etc., might lead to a mispronunciation of *sosiety*, etc. The matter is discussed in the *Pioneer* (No. 3, p. 40).

The reduction of the digraph when final has given rise to considerable adverse comment. As long as final *-y* is retained (as is the case in the scheme provisionally adopted, e.g. in *very*), final *-i* can be used with the value of *-ie*, e.g. in *cri, deni*, etc. If it be decided to use *-i* for *-y* (e.g. *veri*), then *-i* cannot well take the place of *-ie* ; and it will then follow that final *-ee, -oe, -uu, -yue* (see below) should not be reduced. An exception might, however, be made in the case of the following monosyllables :

pronouns : *me, he, she, we ; I, mi, thi ; hu ; yu ;*

prepositions : *bi, thru ;* numerals : *tu, thre ;*

adverbs : *no, so, whi ;* and *the, o* (interjection) and *be* (?) .

To reduce the final digraphs of *all* monosyllables (as is suggested on p. 36) would lead to some awkward inconsistencies, e.g. *lo*, but *beloe, cri*, but *decrie* ; and *goe, goez, crie, criez, free, freedom*, are obviously better than *go, goez, cri, criez, fre, freedom*.

UU, YU (p. 40) : The scheme provisionally adopted by the Society, as far as this group of sounds is concerned, is as follows :—

[Short : good, volyum]

buun dyuety

juel dyual

thru dyu

shuer pyuer

The notation which has aroused most adverse comment is that exemplified by *dyuety*. In the first place the substi-

tution of three letters where the present spelling has only one is regarded as a doubtful "simplification"; in the second place, if *uu* represents the vowel sound of *boon*, it is urged that *yuu* should represent the vowel sound of *tune*. In the *Proposals* (p. 40) it is suggested that *yu* might well represent both the short and the long varieties, in spite of the difficulty (mentioned on the same page) that *young* and *youth* would both be spelt with *yu*. This will perhaps prove the best solution of the difficulty.

The *Pioneer*, No. 4, contains some contributions to this question.

AI (p. 42): The use of *ai* for the vowel part of *aim* has been generally approved, except by those who would like the vowels throughout to have what are known as the "continental" values. Some of those who would use *ai* and *au* for the diphthongs of *buy* and *bough* do not seem to realize that the use of *a* must then be confined to such words as *father*, *calm*, another symbol becoming necessary for the vowel in *hat*.

OR (p. 43): The case when *or* (long) is followed by a vowel presents some difficulty, e.g. in *glory* (cp. *sorry*). On p. 43 of the *Proposals* the spellings *coral*, *oeral* and *aural* are suggested for representing varieties found in the pronunciation of *coral*, *oral* and *aural*, and it may be necessary to arrive at some decision which of these spellings should be adopted in the case of *glory*, *story*, *soaring*, *snoring*, *roaring*, *flooring*, etc.

UR, ER (p. 45): The use of *ur* in stressed, *er* in unstressed syllables has been generally approved.

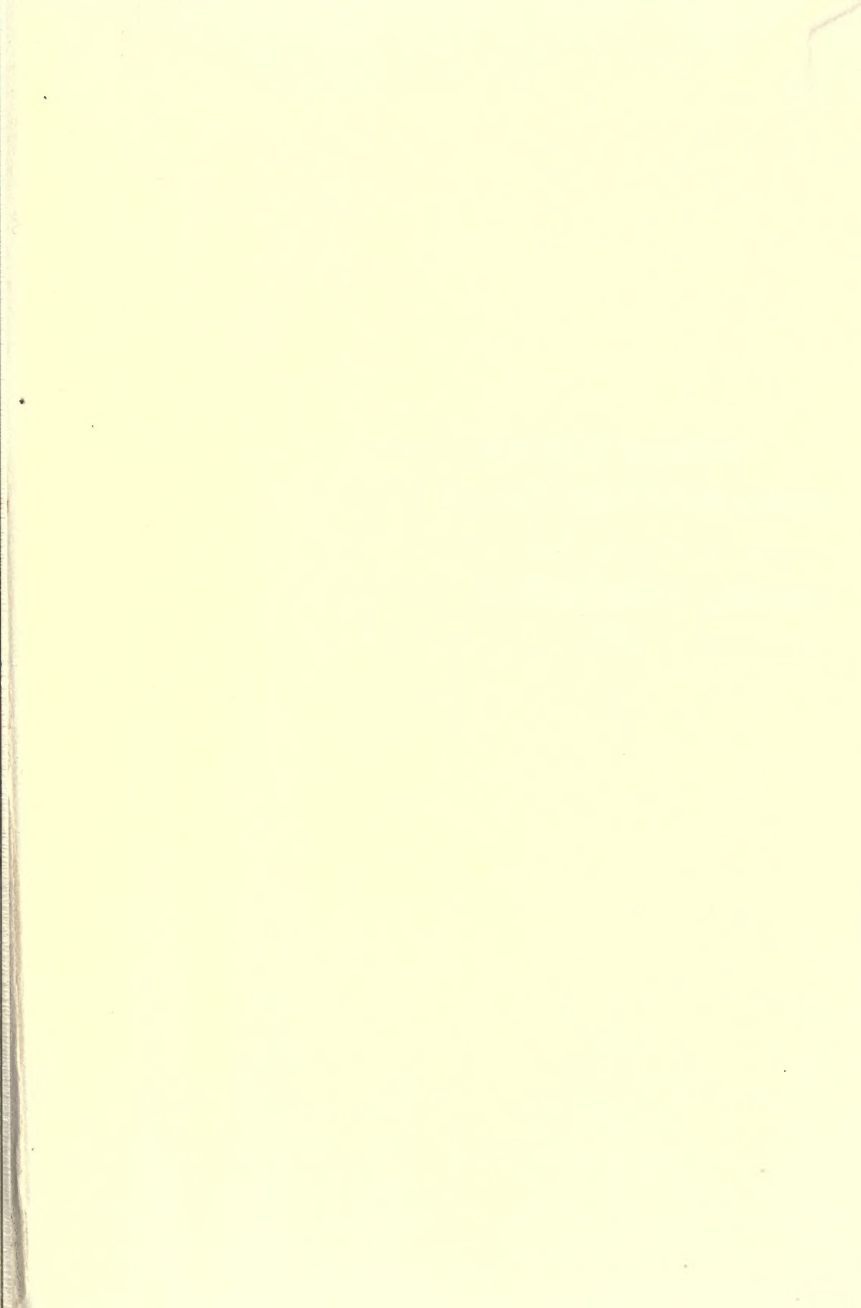
A difficulty similar to that mentioned under AR and OR is presented by *furry* (cp. *hurry*). Perhaps *furri*, *huri* will serve to show the difference.

Vowels in Unstressed Positions: The difficulties encountered in attempting to represent the unstressed vowels, discussed at some length on pp. 49 to 52 of the *Proposals*, have as yet

failed to receive the attention they deserve. How far "platform speech" is to be considered in the retention of various unstressed vowels is one of the most troublesome problems that the reformer has to face; for it raises the whole question of what is to be taught as standard speech. Few critics seem to have grasped the intimate connection between the reform of our spelling and the standardising of our speech.

Homonyms (pp. 64-66): See *Pioneer*, No. 2, p. 28.





JAN 10 1990

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