

NEW SPELLING

BEING PROPOSALS FOR
SIMPLIFYING THE SPELLING OF ENGLISH
WITHOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LETTERS

BY

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AND

WILLIAM ARCHER

SIXTH EDITION

Revised by Professor Daniel Jones and Professor Harold Orton

Foreword by Professor Gilbert Murray

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Orthographiam, id est formam rationemque scribendi a grammaticis inatitutam non adeo custodit: ac videtur eorum sequi potius opinionem qui perinde scribendum ac loquamur existiment. Suetonius, de Vita Augusti.

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FOREWORD

(TO THE FIFTH EDITION, 1940)

The first and second editions of the Proposals were printed for private circulation among the members of the Simplified Spelling Society. The fourth edition was a reprint of the third. In its present edition the book has been completely revised and in part rewritten; and it is now for the first time made available to the general public.

During the later years of his life Sir George Hunter devoted a great deal of his attention to the cause of Spelling Reform, appointing a personal secretary, Mr. T. R. Barber, to look after this side of his work. During this period the work of the Simplified Spelling Society was carried out almost exclusively by Sir George and Mr. Barber, who were tireless in their efforts to win public support for the reform. It is impossible to speak too highly of the valuable work done by Sir George and by Mr. Barber, upon whom, in large measure, rested the responsibility of carrying out the work.

Upon the death of Sir George Hunter in 1937 Mr. Barber, who had kept in constant touch with the members of the Simplified Spelling Society's committee, called the committee together in London; and the work of the Society was immediately resumed. The committee decided that its first task should be to produce a new edition of the Proposals, and in this it was encouraged by the offer of Mr. I. J. Pitman, the grandson of Sir Isaac Pitman—one of the early fathers in the cause of Spelling Reform—to be responsible for the publication. Mr. Ripman, the surviving author of the original editions,

placed his work unreservedly in the hands of the committee; and a sub-committee was appointed to supervise the preparation of the new edition. This sub-committee was composed of the following—

Professor Lloyd James,
 Professor Daniel Jones,
 Mr. Harold Orton,
 Mr. I. J. Pitman,
 Mr. Walter Ripman,

with myself as Chairman and Mr. Barber as Secretary. Mr. Peter Hadley, of Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., was mainly responsible for seeing the work through the Press.

As the work of revision proceeded it became increasingly evident that much of it would need rewriting in the light of recent developments and experience; this work was entrusted to Mr. Harold Orton, of the University of Sheffield, and I am glad to express my appreciation of his contribution to our labours.

GILBERT MURRAY

OXFORD

May, 1940

PREFACE

(TO THE SIXTH EDITION, 1948)

This edition is in the main a reprint of the Fifth Edition of 1940. A certain number of necessary corrections and emendations have, however, been made (especially on pp. 41, 47, 52, 55-57, 59, 65, in Chapter III and in Appendices 1, 11, IV, VI and VII), and some additional illustrative examples have been inserted in various places.

D.J.
 H.O.

January, 1948

PREFACE

(TO THE FIFTH EDITION) 1940)

Since the First Edition of this book appeared thirty years ago, much has happened in the world. The first Great War is fading into history, leaving the burden of its consequences to be borne by a generation which hardly remembers it. And among its casualties is to be reckoned the Simplified Spelling Society, that ardent band of scholar-reformers who laboured to achieve an end which they believed to be for the general good: they, like hosts of others, abandoned their cause for the greater claim of their country, and the Simplified Spelling Society sank into obscurity. Since then many of its stalwart champions, who bore the burden during the heat of the day, have died, among them Skeat, Furnivall, Lord Bryce, Andrew Carnegie, Walter Leaf, Sir James Murray, Charles E. Grandgent, Thomas Lounsbury, and Sir George Hunter, the veteran ship-builder, who in the latter years of his life kept the cause alive with his zeal, and indeed with his money. But a cause supported by so much earnestness and depth of conviction cannot die; and whatever was to be said for Simplified Spelling a quarter of a century ago, there is more to be said for it to-day. Our language is not only the mother tongue of millions scattered all over the globe, but it is rapidly becoming the second language of millions of others. It is no longer the prerogative of those who live in the narrow confines of these islands, as it was in the days when the general principles of its orthography were laid down. It has become, possibly to an extent that even we fail to estimate, the language of the world, and one of the main instruments in human relations. This, however

much it may give us cause for elation, should also give us pause: for a language which spreads beyond the confines of its birthplace is always in danger of losing its entity. To-day, however, when the spoken word is radiated throughout the whole world; when communication depends upon oral rather than upon written language; when telephone lines and wireless beams make speech with the furthestmost parts a matter of daily experience; there is hope that English will not follow the way of Chinese and Latin, great cultural languages which split into mutually unintelligible dialects. To us, brought up in the birthplace of our language, its history and its traditions are amongst our most cherished treasures. The idiosyncrasies of its spelling are as dear to us as are our ancient landmarks and national monuments. Its visual appearance is almost sacred, for there is hardly a feature of it that is not rich in history. If its sound had withstood the passage of time as stubbornly as its appearance, all would now be well: we should speak as we write, and write as we speak. But alas! sound is sound, and sight is sight.

To expect the hundreds of millions of English speakers, present and to come, in all parts of the world, to be burdened indefinitely with our traditional English spelling is to expect too much. Moreover, if we can give them a visual English that is more in accord with the spoken language than the present orthography, we shall have gone a long way towards removing one, at least, of the causes that lead to disintegration. A rational phonetic spelling will do much to steady our language in the perilous seas upon which it has embarked, for, in these days of universal literacy, the visual language exercises a remarkable influence on the spoken language. It is the one constant standard, common throughout the world: the more

phonetic it is, the more uniform will pronunciation tend to be. When men first began to write, they wrote as they spoke; now they tend to speak as they write—and we cannot blame them.

And so it comes about that there now appears, after a lapse of thirty years, despite the outbreak of another war, the present edition of a remarkable pamphlet, first printed in 1910. It takes up once again the cause of Simplified Spelling, and -presents to a new generation the linguistic considerations that are involved in a scientific approach to the problem.

Scores of schemes of simplified spelling have been invented: how many of the inventors have studied the facts of the problem as minutely as the authors of this booklet I should not care to estimate. But now that the facts are available, there is no excuse for future inventors to rush in. This booklet is the Spelling Reformer's Vade-Mecum; it is one of the most remarkable statistical investigations into' English spelling ever undertaken, and must be reckoned with by all those interested in the subject.

The suggestions put forward in this booklet are to be regarded as suggestions merely, and not as *ex cathedra* pronouncements. Those who put them forward are ardent champions of our language, sincere in their reverence of its ancient monuments and its historical traditions, and anxious not only for the preservation of its past, but for the welfare of its future.

They humbly suggest that the time has come for those who love our English language to consider whether zeal for the past may not now be tempered with anxiety for the future.

A. LLOYD JAMES

CONTENTS

	PAGE
FOREWORD TO THE FIFTH EDITION	3
PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION	4
PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION	5
INTRODUCTION	11
CHAPTER I	
CONSONANT SOUNDS	19
Consonants not requiring change-Consonants requiring change-Digraphs-Double Consonant Letters-Mute Consonant Letters-Summary of Suggested Spellings of Consonant Sounds	
CHAPTER II	
VOWEL SOUNDS	40
Short Vowels-Long Vowels and Diphthongs-Mute Vowels-Summary of Suggested Spellings of Vowel Sounds-Vowels in Unstressed Positions	
THE NEW SPELLING IN BRIEF	
(1) ARRANGED ON A PHONETIC BASIS	67
(2) ARRANGED ON AN ALPHABETIC BASIS	68
CHAPTER III	
THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON WORD FORMATION	69
Prefixes-Endings-Changes in the Stem	
CHAPTER IV	
THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE RULES OF ACCIDENCE.	77
Inflection of Nouns and Verbs-Plurals in <i>-en</i> and Irregular Plurals-Adjectives-Adverbs-Verb: form in <i>-ing</i> -Verb: formation of past tense and of past participle of weak verbs-Verb: formation of past tense and of past participle of strong verbs	

	PAGE
CHAPTER V	
WORDS NOW DIFFERING IN SPELLING TO WHICH THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD GIVE THE SAME FORM	83
CHAPTER VI	
THE SPELLING OF COMPOUND WORDS	86
CHAPTER VII	
THE SPELLING OF PROPER NAMES	88
CHAPTER VIII	
FOREIGN WORDS	91
CHAPTER IX	
SPECIMEN OF NEW SPELLING	92
APPENDIX I: DIGRAPHS	99
APPENDIX II: WORD-SIGNS	101
APPENDIX III: THE SPELLING OF THE VOWELS IN <i>New, Food, Good</i>	103
APPENDIX IV: <i>i</i> FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER VOWEL	105
APPENDIX V: USE OF THE DIRERESIS.	109
APPENDIX VI: CONTRACTIONS, APOSTROPHE	110
APPENDIX VII: WORDS SPELT WITH <i>or</i>	111
APPENDIX VIII: PLACE NAMES IN NEW SPELLING	115
APPENDIX IX: FURTHER STATISTICAL DATA	119
APPENDIX X: THE SYSTEM OF THE S.S.A.	128
INDEX	129

INTRODUCTION

The following suggestions for a systematic simplification of English spelling proceed on the assumption that no simplification can be of much practical value which is *not* systematic-which does not reduce the existing chaos to something like order. The utilitarian aim being economy of the time and labour of learners (whether children or foreigners) by the substitution of uniformity for confusion, the value of any simplification must be assessed according to both the economy it is able to effect and the measure of its consistency. If the probable average saving were only a few days, or even a few weeks, it is doubtful whether it would repay the trouble and disturbance of change. Slight simplifications are no doubt useful as a beginning, but cannot be an end. The practical and ultimate problem is to arrive at such a system as shall mean a substantial and unmistakable gain to the learner by rendering the teaching of reading a reasonable process, and diminishing by, say, a year the average time devoted to spelling. All authorities agree that this ought to be possible.

On the other hand, the best of systems would be useless which had no chance of establishing itself in popular usage. Many such systems exist already. We are not aware, however, of any previous proposals for systematic simplification which do not involve far more numerous and startling departures from current usage than those suggested in this book.

The rules and exceptions of the system here suggested can be set forth in a single page of type (see p. 67). The

rules, of course, consist simply in the statement that such and such sounds are represented by such and such letters or combinations of letters. The exceptions form a very limited number of easily-remembered departures from strict rule, due to motives to be presently explained.

We are quite aware that our suggestions are at many points open to criticism, and possibly to amendment. We may not always have chosen the most convenient symbol for a given sound; while a proposed exception may prove to be injudicious or unnecessary. But we are thoroughly convinced that no *less* systematic simplification would effect the necessary economy of time and labour. In other words, our concessions to current usage go as far as it is possible to go without creating difficulties, inconsistencies, embarrassments, and imposing arbitrary burdens on the learner's memory. Some of our individual suggestions may be mistaken, but we do not believe that they err on the side of radicalism. On the contrary, we think it not improbable that, if this or a similar system should come into use, more than one of our concessions to conservatism would in practice soon be abandoned. And it may here be noted that, even if the exceptions maintained their ground in common use, an intelligent teacher or examiner would never give a child a bad mark for ignoring a conventional abbreviation and writing a form in full. He would reserve his censure for spellings which showed either a bad ear or a faulty pronunciation.

The following principles underlie the suggested scheme of New Spelling-

(i) Not to attempt the introduction of any new character.

(ii) To introduce no new diacritics. All detached marks are troublesome in writing; even the dotting of *i*'s and the

crossing of *t*'s interrupt the even movement of the pen. The occasional use of the diæresis is justifiable, but it is employed as sparingly as possible.

(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 *dh* (see p. 29), *zh* (see p- 32), *aa* (see pp. 45, 46), *ae* (see p. 54), and *uu* (see pp. 51, 52).

(iv) To make each symbol (letter or digraph) as far as possible *self-sufficient*, so that its significance 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.

(v) To economize in the use of letters wherever it seems possible without ambiguity or inconsistency. As will be discussed later, the common argument that simplification would save quantities of material (in paper, printing ink, etc.) is not entirely applicable unless a new alphabet providing a single symbol for each sound is adopted. 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, where possible, to each sound the symbol now 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, say, Southern English alone 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 not found in his speech. Thus many Southern English speakers make no distinction between *w* and *wh*, or between *or* (before consonant) and *au*. Similarly the signs *-nch*, *-nj* (for *-nge*) have been adopted for words like *lunch* and *change*, although in Southern English *nsh*, *nzh* would often represent the sounds more accurately.

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, there are here and there cases where the spelling does not 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 one cannot without introducing new letters distinguish between the *a*'s in the final syllables of *breakfast* and *bombast*; and there are good reasons for writing an *e* in the last syllable of *object*, although in southern pronunciation the sound is not the same as that in *insect*. 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 emphasized or not; the vowel of *was* is not the same in "Yes, I *wás* there" as in "I was *thére*." This difference is not shown in the proposed spelling. Differences in quantity are also often associated with the presence of a final consonant; thus *bead* has a longer vowel than *beat*, *bed* a longer vowel than *bet*. Several other cases might be

adduced in which the proposed spelling falls short of the accuracy that would be demanded by a strictly phonetic analysis. It may indeed be described as phonetic spelling drawing its signs from those in current use and tempered by reason and expediency.

The essential thing is that any one who knows the pronunciation of a word should be able to spell it; in this the current orthography fails hopelessly. To the foreigner and even to the native Englishman it would doubtless be very welcome if the spelling in every case suggested the exact 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 foreign learner will find that the proposed spelling leaves very few stumbling-blocks in his way. A dictionary of the new orthography has been prepared. It indicates the spellings that have been adopted for official use by the Society. Individual members need not, however, regard them as obligatory. Each is at liberty to spell as he pleases. Where variants are admissible, he will presumably prefer to use the one that appears to indicate his own pronunciation best.

The compromises embodied in our scheme are adopted, not with a view to conciliating prejudice, but because reason suggests that the gap between the old spelling and the new should be made as small as possible *without sacrifice of simplicity and consistency*. Actually they minimize the difficulty which those educated in the new system would find in reading literature printed in the old irregular system. **In none of our compromises is the convenience of the coming generation sacrificed to the habits of the adult generation of to-day.** This we conceive to be the fundamental condition' of a truly simplified spelling.

Though we may not succeed in conciliating prejudice, we believe that even the most prejudiced person can be induced to lay aside his prejudices for a moment and bring into play the reason which lurks somewhere behind them. Now, it is important 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 quickly understood and memorized, and (2) professes to be final, so far as this is possible. 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 acceptance by many of those whose interest in the question is practical; and it is through educationists that the change must ultimately come. We have so often been met by complaints of the manifest lack of finality in previous proposals, that we cannot but doubt the policy of promulgating any scheme which, while it *approaches* finality, clearly stops short of it in several important particulars.

No special difficulty need arise in introducing the new orthography into our primary schools. A beginning might be made with the lowest class or classes; and the children concerned would continue to use it throughout their school career. Under the auspices of the Simplified Spelling Society several successful experiments with New Spelling have already been made in schools, and others are projected. See the Society's Pamphlet No. 7, "The Best Method of Teaching Children to

Read and Write: Reports of Experiments Conducted in Sixteen Schools.”

Note.

Before any conclusion could be arrived at, 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, or to proper names; and compounds of the same word (e.g. *conclude*, *include*, *preclude*) were counted only 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 other reformers 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 abbreviations N.S., O.S. are used, when convenient, to denote the new spelling and the old (present-day) spelling.

NEW SPELLING

CHAPTER 1

CONSONANT SOUNDS

Consonants not requiring Change

Those letters of the present alphabet which, when not merged in digraphs, represent single and for all practical purposes invariable sounds, retain these values in the notation here suggested. These letters are—

p ¹ as in <i>pin</i>	m as in <i>met</i>	h as in <i>hot</i>
b as in <i>bin</i>	n as in <i>net</i>	l as in <i>lot</i>
t ¹ as in <i>tin</i>	f ² as in <i>fat</i>	j ³ as in <i>jot</i>
d as in <i>din</i>	v as in <i>vat</i>	w ⁴ as in <i>win</i>
k as in <i>kin</i>		

There can be no doubt that the letters **p, b, t, d, k, m, n, f, v, h, l, j, w**, are the proper and convenient symbols for those thirteen sounds.

¹ *p* and *t* have a purely conventional value in the digraphs *ph, th* of present spelling.

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

² There is one exception in the case of *f*: *of* is pronounced, and ought therefore to be spelt, *ov*.

³ See pp. 20, 33.

⁴ *w* is denoted by *u* before a vowel in the combinations *ngu* (e.g. *anguish*, 6) and *su* (e.g. *persuade*, 3), as well as in *cuirass*. It is suggested that *w* take the place of *u* in these cases.

w is also the initial sound of *one, once*; these words should clearly be written *wun, wuns*.

Consonants requiring Changes

It has often been observed that we recognize 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 the vowels; this, again, is obvious when kindred words in different languages are compared. It is consequently 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.

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. It therefore seems wholly reasonable to let *g* represent the sound in *got*, and *j* the sound in *jot*, *age*, *etc.* *J*, it will be noted, appears in the list of letters which, in the present spelling, have never any other value than 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*, as in *cedar* and *city* respectively) must evidently be represented in a reasonable alphabet by *s*, the two symbols *c* and *k* are equally at our disposal. 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* and *k*, but also in *q* (e.g. *quite*) and *x* (e.g. *fox*). 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*) and other foreign sources (e.g. *fakir*, *kangaroo*), but the majority are 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* (188), 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 **k** be everywhere used to represent the sound of *k*. This will entail the disappearance of both *c* and *ck* from usage.

Note.

The letter *k* is distinctive in point of both size and shape, for which reason it is easily identified. Accordingly, unlike *c*, it is not liable to confusion with *a*, *e*, and (perhaps) *i*, *o*, *u*, and *v*, either in print or in writing; and the groups *kl* and *kr* are obviously much less liable to misinterpretation than *cl* and *cr*, which are often found in initial positions. That a lower-case *k* is more legible than a *c* is confirmed by the results of experimental investigation mentioned in the Medical Research Council's Special Report for 1926 on The Legibility of Type (pp. 85-99). The letter *c* is there acknowledged to be very indistinct. On the other hand opinions on the comparative legibility of upper-case *K* and *C* are at variance.

In the First Edition of this book, it was recommended that *c* should be used to designate the value of *k*. Evidence was there produced to show that in certain typical specimens of prose *c* occurred three times as often as *k*, although in certain representative passages of poetry the proportion was a little under two to one. The actual figures are rather interesting and worth reproducing here—

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.

	<i>K</i>	<i>C</i>
The Sermon on the Mount (St. Matthew v., vi., vii)	53	86
<i>Sartor Resartus</i> , chap. i	32	121
Macaulay, <i>Essay on Byron</i> , paragraphs 1-3	12	45
Forster, <i>Life of Dickens</i> (two pages)	29	54
Spencer, <i>Education</i> (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	<u>24</u>	<u>128</u>
	<u>186</u>	<u>567</u>

Thus in the above random but representative specimens of prose, *c* is recorded three times as frequently as *k*. In poetry, however, the disparity is not quite so great, if the figures below are typical. This is not surprising, however, in view of the fact that poetry usually contains a larger proportion of Saxon words, to which the *k* is more or less confined.

	<i>K</i>	<i>C</i>
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 1	19	54
Matthew Arnold, "Sohrab and Rustum," 1. 1-114	23	37
Scott, "Lay of the Last Minstrel"	13	13
Milton, "Paradise Lost," i, 1-200	<u>19</u>	<u>52</u>
	<u>326</u>	<u>502</u>

Historically, there is something to be said in favour of both letters. In the Old English period, *k* was rare in comparison with *c*. It was in fact

used merely supplementarily for the sound of *k*, which indeed was regularly denoted by *c*. The latter, however, carried the disadvantage of representing one other sound in addition, viz. a sound approximating to the English *ch*, as in *cheese*. After the Conquest the use of *c* with the value of *k* was continued by the Norman scribes, who were accustomed to the same usage in their own language. Nevertheless at the same time they employed the letter *c* in a different capacity, namely with the sound of *s* before *i* and *e*. Unhappily they introduced this second function of *c* into English orthography. We may consequently hold the Normans responsible for a spelling difficulty that has troubled generations of English users. Finally, it may be noted that in the Teutonic languages the *k* sound is symbolized by *k*, but in the Romance languages by *c*. It would therefore not be unreasonable to extend the use of *k* in English, and thereby strengthen the bonds of kinship with the other Teutonic languages.

In favour of *k* is the fact that to-day it always denotes the *k* sound, except when altogether silent, as in the group *kn* in *knee*, *knot*, etc. It is never associated with the sound of *s*, as is the letter *c*, e.g. before *i* and *e* as in *city* and *centre* respectively. But, to counter this, some opponents of *k* allege that the greatest disadvantage arising out of its use would result from the necessity of having to transfer numerous words now beginning with *c* from one part of the dictionary to another under *k*. A large proportion of these *c*-words, it may be noted, is formed by those containing prefixes (like *co-*, *col-*, *com-*, *con-*, *counter-*, *contra-*) derived from Latin *cum* and *contra*. Admittedly the relative frequency of initial *c* to *k* is extremely high. For example, as mentioned in the First Edition of this book, an ordinary school dictionary, chosen because it did not include recondite words, was found to contain some 3,000 examples of initial *c*, but only about 130 with *k*.

Although, however, the principle of least disturbance would here certainly favour the retention of *c*, the advantages on balance seem to rest with *k*. In any case any inconvenience occasioned to dictionary users by the disturbance of the existing order of words will be very slight, temporary, and negligible. The use of *k* also renders possible the eventual substitution of *c* for *ch* (see p. 33).

X.

Assuming that *k* is adopted for the *k* sound, and *s* and *z* respectively for the voiceless and the voiced sibilants (see p.27), we may now discuss the question whether it is desirable to retain the symbol *x*.

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

The letter *x* has three values:

(i) *ks*, mostly in words ultimately 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 commonest value of *x*. There are some ten everyday words in which *xc* has this value also (e.g. *excite*).

(ii) *gz*, in *example*, *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 *eks-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 **ks**, **gz**, or **z** be used in place of *x*, except in proper names.

Note.

It will be seen from the above that *x* is an ambiguous symbol. When followed by a consonant and in stressed syllables, it is equivalent to *ks*; but in unstressed syllables, followed by a vowel, it is equivalent to *gz*. Examples: *extreme* (eks), *execute* (eks), *example* (egz). 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 (*ks* and *gz*) occur in so many other contexts that the attempt to abbreviate them to *x* throughout 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*, *axidexce*, *axessory*, *baxlide*, *baxtairs*, *exentric*, *huxter*, *irxome*, *oxident*, *oxiput*, *suxeed*, *saxess*, *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 *ks* 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, now 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*, and hundreds of other similar forms.

It is submitted that, even if the abbreviation were otherwise held 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 intrinsic phonetic difference between the individual 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 *ks* sound should be analysed into its components where it occurred in a final syllable, but should be represented by *x* elsewhere. But in that case should we write *ax* or *aks*, *box* or *boks*, *fox* or *fok*, *fox* or *foks*, *mix* or *miks*, *ox* or *oks*? There would be no possibility of avoiding a number of inconsistencies which the learner would have to memorize. We submit that it would

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

be far more convenient to adopt the simple practice of writing *ks* where we say *ks* and *gz* where we say *gz*. We should thus have such forms as: *aksent, aksept, eksentric, sukseed, quiksotic, siks, creeks, craks, ekspect, aks, aksiom, boks, bokser, buksom, doksology, ekstacy, siksteen, deks, cheks, neks, kritiks, indeks, jukstaposition, laksity, leksicon, loksmith, maksim, oks, oksen, seks, sekston, ethiks, milks, thanks, ekstent; and: egzemplary, egzist, legz, bagz, pigz, egzibit, flagz, rugz.*¹

QU.

The retention of *qu* for the sequence of sounds *kw* 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 *kw*. 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 *kw* might at first look odd in words derived from the Latin, such as *quarter* and *quarrel*, in the Anglo-Saxon words, such as *queen, quick, quake*, it would be a mere return to a historic usage.

[The digraph *qu* (with the value *kw*) 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 **kw** be used in place of *qu* and *cqu*, and **nkw** in place of *nqu*, the **n** representing here the ordinary value of *ng*.

¹ Again in these examples the current spelling has been retained, except as regards the representation of *ks* and *gz*.

qu with the value of *k* occurs in eight words ending in *ique*, of French origin; if they do not, as foreign words, remain unchanged, their ending will become *EEK*. It also occurs initially in *quay*, *queue*, *quoin*, and *quoit*.

S, Z

We have assumed above (p. 23), 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. 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 is that it entirely disposes of 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 difficulty in determining where an *s* is to be used and where a *z*. (See p. 77.)

Note.

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

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. The number of words containing *c* with the value of *s* is therefore 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 *ks*.

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 inflexions (see the chapter on Accidence (p. 77)); 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).

Medial 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.

R.

The letter *r* has many different values according to its position and according to local usage. We propose to leave *r* wherever it occurs in the spelling of to-day, except where it is doubled, where as a rule only one *r* need be written (see p. 36). In certain categories of words, however, it seems essential, in order to avoid ambiguity, to use double *rr*: These comprise words like *carry*, *sorry*, and *hurry*. See further pp. 46, 56, 59, and Appendix VII.

Y.

We propose to retain the consonantal *y* of such words as *yet*, *young*. (On *you*, *youth*, *yew*, etc., see pp. 52, 53.) It is convenient to give to this letter a vowel function also; see p. 41 and Appendix IV.

Summary of Consonants so far Determined

We thus have seventeen consonants, to each of which one invariable function can now be assigned; they are the initial consonants in *pin*, *bin*, *tin*, *din*, *kin*, *met*, *net*, *fat*, *vat*, *hot*, *lot*, *jot*, *win*, *got*, *set*, *zest*, *rot*. Some of these letters are employed in digraphs; but whenever they are sounded singly they have the above values. *Y* has its

consonantal value initially and in certain well-defined medial combinations.

Digraphs

TH, DH.

We propose to make an orthographic distinction between the two functions of *th*, viz. between its “voiceless” sound in *thing* and its “voiced” sound in *this*. If **th** be retained in *thing* and the like, it would seem reasonable and logical to denote the *th* of *this* in some other way. If so, *d* being the voiced equivalent of *t*, **dh** should be used for the voiced equivalent of *th*. The distinction would be parallel to that of *f* and *v*, of *s* and *z*, and of *sh* and *zh*.

If this mode of representation is adopted, the digraph *dh* will occur initially in the following very common words: *than, that, the, them, then, thence, there, these, this, those, though, thus*¹; and in the relatively rare words *thee, thither, thou*. Moreover it will appear finally in *smooth, with*,² in the ending *-the* (as in *bathe*, twenty cases), in the ending *-ther* (as in *mother*, twenty-nine cases), and in a few other words. Some nouns have the voiceless *th* in the singular, but, in the plural, the voiced sound, which is also found in the corresponding verbs (cf. *mouth: mouths and mouthed*); note also *worth: worthy, heath: heather*.

In *eighth*, a *t* is pronounced, though unexpressed in the spelling. It should therefore be inserted.

NG.

It is obviously advisable to retain this digraph to represent the “velar nasal” heard in such words as *sing, long*.

With most English speakers³ the combination *ng*

1. See Appendix 1, page 99.

2. Northern speakers who use voiceless *th* in *with* could continue to write the word with *th*.

3 Excepting many from the Midlands.

represents this same sound in *singer*, *longing* but a sequence of two sounds in *finger*, *longer*. It is recommended that this difference should be indicated in the spelling. This may be done by leaving the *ng* unchanged in *singer*, *longing* and writing *ngg* in words like *finger*, *longer*: thus *singer*, *longing*, but *finger*, *longer*. Admittedly most English people are not readily confused by the existing use of *ng*, and this recommendation might appear to conflict with the principle of least disturbance. Further, *ngg*, because unfamiliar, may be thought cumbersome and inelegant. Nevertheless, it seems desirable in the interests of consistency to make a difference in the spelling, and thus to give the needful clue to the pronunciation, by the insertion of an additional *g* in those words in which *ng* really represents the sound of *ngg*.

The *ng*-sound also occurs in words like *tank*, *banker*, in which *nk* is equivalent to *ngk*. No change in the present spelling seems necessary.

[The combination *ng* has in present orthography four values—

(i) *ng*, as in *singer*. This is the most common value.

(ii) *n + g*, as in *engage* and other compounds.¹

(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); *ng*, *nger*, *ngor* (present spelling *-or* and *-our*) (e.g. *anger*, 15); *ngw* (present spelling *ngu*, e.g. *anguish*, 12).

(iv) *nj*, as in *singe* (,22), *stranger* (many cases).]

It is suggested that **ng** be retained in the cases given under (i), (ii), and that **ngg** be written for those under (iii); for the treatment of *ng* == *nj*, see p. 14.

¹See Appendix 1, p. 99.

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*, and 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, with some Southern English speakers, 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) *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*).

x has the value of *ksh* in a few words (e.g. *luxury*, *complexion*, *noxious*). Note the variant spellings of *ksh* in *connexion*: *connection*.

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 one pronunciation of *abscission*.

(iii) *zi* in *glazier*, *grazier*.

(iv) *ti* in a frequent pronunciation of *transition*.

(v) *s* in the ending *-sure* preceded by a vowel (e.g. *measure*, 9) and in *usual*, *usury*.

(vi) *z* in *azure*, *seizure*.

(vii) *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 compound sound usually written *ch* (see below); and that **zh** be used to represent the voiced sound. 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 with *-zier* or *-sier*, some pronounce *z* and others *zh*.

CH, J.

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*. At a later stage it might prove practicable to drop the *h* from *ch*. The sound in question would then, as in modern Italian, be denoted by the letter *c*, which in our system is no longer required for the *k*-sound. The letter *j* has already been suggested

as the best representation of the voiced sound corresponding to the voiceless *ch* (see pp. 19, 20).

[The voiceless *ch* sound is at present represented by

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

(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 voiced sound corresponding to *ch* 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*, *logical*, but not universally (e.g. *get*); rarely before other vowels (e.g. *gaol*).

(iii) *gg* in *exaggerate*, *suggest*.

(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 *soldier* (variant pronunciation with *dy*).

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

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

(x) *ch* in *spinach* and with some speakers *sandwich* and *ostrich*.]

Scottish CH.

It is evidently desirable that the Scottish sound of *ch* in *loch* should have a form distinct from the ordinary *ch*. We propose to represent it by **kh**.

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 may have the value of *hw*, or be pronounced as the voiceless equivalent of *w*. It would be difficult to prove that any of these values preponderates. To substitute *w* for the current spelling would impose the pronunciation of a minority on the rest of the English-speaking world; and we therefore think it preferable not to recommend any change in the use of the digraph **wh**, except, of course, where in current usage it has the value of *h* (e.g. *who*, *whole*).

**Double Consonant Letters**

Double consonant letters are found in present-day spelling

(*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*).

overr- (*overrate*).

underr- (*underrate*).

opp- (*oppress*, etc., 4).

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

(b) at the end of words—

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

(c) where inflexions and suffixes are added—

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

-bb (*stab*, *stabbing*, *stabbed*, 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

-le, -el, -al

bb (27), ck (24.), dd (26), fr (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) (-it)

ck (x8), ll (17), mm (7), nn (6), pp (4), rr (5), ss (6).

-ey: ck (4), ll (5).

-ow: ll (i 8), 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 consonants is justified where there is real lengthening of the sound, as in *thinness*, *solely* and in compound words such as in *lamppost*, *coattail*, where the presence of the last sound of the first part and the first sound of the second part is necessary to render the meaning clear.

In other cases the doubling of consonants in present spelling usually indicates the value of a preceding vowel (as in *stabbing*, *wedding*, and other examples in section (c) above; but cf. *control*, *controller*, *distil*, *distiller*). Since, however, 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 (a) compound words (e.g. *blackcap*, *coattail*, *fishshop*, *lamppost*, *meanness*, *soulless*, *solely*, *wholly*, *unnecessary*); (b) compounds involving *rr* (e.g. *earring*); (c) the special case of words like *carry* (p. 46), *sorry* (p. 56), and *hurry* (p. 59); and (d) where a consonant letter precedes a digraph beginning with the same letter, e.g. *aetth*, *horsshuu* (present spelling *eighth*, *horseshoe*).

Mute Consonant Letters

The presence of mute consonant letters 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). 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 no adequate reason for the retention of such letters in a simplified spelling.

There is a further group of words borrowed from Greek or Latin that contains a combination of consonants unfamiliar to speakers of English (e.g. *mn* in *mnemonic*, *autumn*; *phth* in *phthisis*) or are used with an unusual English value (e.g. *ch* in *chord*).

In classifying these words with mute consonants, it is interesting to discriminate between native words and words directly or indirectly derived from Greek or Latin.

<i>Native Words:</i>	<i>Words from Greek or Latin:</i>
Mute consonants occur	
(a) initially—	
gn (<i>gnat</i> , etc., 6)	<i>h</i> (<i>hour</i> , etc., t; 2nd part of
<i>h</i> (2nd part of compound, <i>shep</i>	compound, <i>exhaust</i> , etc., 8)
<i>-herd</i> , etc., 3)	<i>mn</i> (mnemonic)
kn (<i>knave</i> , etc., 21)	pn (pneumonia)
wh (<i>whole</i> , etc., 3)	ps (<i>psalm</i> , etc., 3)
wr (<i>wrap</i> , etc., 21)	pt (<i>ptomaine</i> , <i>ptero-</i>)
anomalous: pt (<i>ptarmigan</i>)	

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

(b) finally (see also (e) below)-	
mb (<i>comb</i> , etc., 15)	
gh (<i>high</i> , etc., 19; <i>ough</i> 2, <i>igh</i> 3,	mn (<i>autumn</i> , etc., 8)
<i>igh</i> , 4, <i>ough</i> 10)	rrh (<i>catarrh</i> , <i>myrrh</i>)
<i>h</i> (<i>ah</i> , etc., 6)	

(c) in certain combinations, within the word—

sc	before <i>e, i, y</i> (<i>scythe</i>) (<i>light</i> , etc., 10; <i>aight</i> 1, <i>ought</i> 9, <i>eight</i> 3, <i>ight</i> 18, <i>ought</i> 9)	sc	before <i>e, i, y</i> (very many; <i>ght</i> note especially <i>-esce</i> , <i>-escent</i> endings)
gh	(<i>ghost</i> , etc., 5)	gm	(<i>phlegm</i> , etc., 4)
ld	(<i>could</i> , etc., 4)	gn	(<i>sign</i> , etc., 17)
If	(<i>half</i> , etc., 3)	ch	(<i>chord</i> , etc., very many)
		rh	(<i>rhythm</i> , etc., 8)
		lc	(<i>falcon</i> ¹)
lk	(<i>talk</i> , etc., 6)	lk	(<i>chalk</i>)
lm	(<i>qualm</i> , <i>holm</i>)	/m	(<i>balm</i> , etc., 7)
lv	(<i>halve</i>)	scl	(<i>corpuscle</i> , <i>muscle</i>)
ften	(<i>often</i> , <i>soften</i>) ¹	stl	(<i>castle</i>)
stl	(<i>thistle</i> , etc., 18) ¹	sthm	(<i>asthma</i> , <i>isthmus</i>)
sten	(<i>hasten</i> , etc., 7) ¹		

(d) at end of first part of compound—

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

(e) in modem loanwords—

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

(f) in sundry cases-

h (*doubt*, *debt*, *subtle*); *c* (*indict*, *victual*; *schedule*,² *schist*,
jelerchal); *ch* (*drachm*, *schism*, *yacht*); *h* (*ache*, *schooner*; *thyme*); *p*
(*receipt*); *s* (*aisle*, *isle*, *demerxe*, *puirve*); *m* (*answer*, *sword*).

¹ Alternative spellings are admissible not only in the case of *falcon*,
pestle, and *often*, but also possibly in *soften*, *fasten*, *chasten*, *hasten*,
christen, *epistle*, and *apostle*. It is normal to omit the mute consonant,
but some speakers pronounce it and may therefore write it.

² Except in U.S.A.

Summary of Suggested Spellings of Consonant Sounds

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>	<i>Nasal</i>
p	as in <i>pin</i>	b as in <i>bin</i>	m as in <i>met</i>
t	as in <i>tin</i>	d as in <i>din</i>	n as in <i>net</i>
ch	as in <i>chin</i>	j as in <i>jot</i>	ng as in <i>sing,</i>
k	as in <i>kin</i>	g as in <i>got</i>	<i>angger</i>
f	as in <i>fat</i>	v as in <i>vat</i>	nk as in <i>thank</i>
th	as in <i>thin</i>	dh as in <i>dhis</i>	
s	as in <i>sin</i>	z as in <i>zest</i>	
sh	as in <i>shin</i>	zh as in <i>vizhon</i>	
h	as in <i>hot</i>	l as in <i>lot</i>	
wh	as in <i>whim</i>	r as in <i>rot</i>	
kh	as in Scottish <i>lokh</i>	w as in <i>win</i>	
		y as in <i>yet</i>	

Note 1.—Double consonants are admissible (1) in compound words in which the double consonants are pronounced; (2) in certain compounds with prefixes and suffixes where the double consonants are pronounced (see p. 36); (3) in the special case of words like *carry*, *sorry*, and *hurry* (see pp. 46, 56, and 59).

Note 2.—Observe that in Southern English the phonetic value of *r* differs according as it is followed by a consonant or by a vowel (see pp. 46, 55, 56, 58, 59).

far, farm, but stary, karry;

for, form, but forum, forrest;

fur, farm (present spelling firm), but sturing (present spelling stirring), fuery (present spelling fury), furroe (present spelling furrow).

Note 3.—The letter *x* (= *ks* or *gz*), and the combinations *ph* (= *f*) and *qu* (= *kw*) are omitted as being superfluous. *C* is only used in *ch*.

CHAPTER II

VOWEL SOUNDS

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

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

(2) Because the 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, is clear enough. We find that in the current spelling the value by far most commonly assigned to the symbols *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, is 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 five of the six so-called short vowel sounds. For the short vowel written *oo* in *good*, see pp. 51, 52, and Appendix III. For the unstressed *i*-sound see p. 41, and Appendix IV.

Short Vowels

1. Sound of **a** in *bat*.

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

Observe *ua* in *guarantee*, *ai* in *plait*, *plaid*.

Suggested spelling: **a**.

Examples: *kat*, *hapy*, *garrantee*, *plat*.

2. Sound of **e** in *bet*.

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

ea, e.g. *head*, 57 cases.

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

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

Suggested spelling: **e**.

Examples: *bet*, *hed*, *meny*, *sez*, *hefer*, *trend*, *gest*.

3. Sound of **i** in *pit*.

Present spelling: I. *initially and medially*.

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

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

Fairly common: *e*, in unstressed positions before another vowel (e.g. *area*, *subterranean*, *linear*, *lineal*, *meteor*, *meteoric*) and before consonants (e.g. *integral*, *supplement*, and words with various prefixes and endings, such as *bridges*, *goodness*, *waeted*, *deduct*, *remain*).

Uncommon: *ee*, in *breeches*; *ei*, in *forfeit*, *surfeit*, *foreign*, *sovereign*; *ie*, in *kerchief*, *mischief*, *sieve*; *o*, in *women*; *u*, in *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*, e.g. *simile*, 8 cases; *ee*, in *committee*; *is*, in *chassis*.

Suggested spelling: (when stressed) **i**; (when unstressed) normally **i**, but **y** finally and before another vowel, and **e** where now written with *e* finally or before a consonant.

Examples: (1) *pit*, *bild*; *timid*, *mischif*, *inkwizitiv*, *sitiz*; *envid*; (2) *pity*, *badly*, *barly*; *aerya*, *seeryus*, *meetyorrik*, (3) *simile*; *brijez*, *goodnes*, *waeted*, *dedukt*, *remaen*.

Note. Australians, New Zealanders and many English people pronounce the *y* of *pity*, *badly*, etc., as *ee*. We do not, however, consider it necessary for this reason to admit *-ee* as an alternative spelling for final *-y*; we feel that *y* with the appropriate convention will suffice.

4. Sound of **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), in *yacht*.

Suggested spelling: **o**.

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

5. Sound of **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*, in *does*; *oo*, in *blood*, *flood*.

Suggested spelling: **u**.

Examples: *but*, *mudher*, *dubl*, *duz*, *flud*.

Long Vowels and Diphthongs

General Considerations

In the present book no attempt has been made to bring the representation of long vowels or diphthongs into phonetic agreement with the representation of the short vowels.

The alternative usually adopted is to employ that combination of letters which represents a particular sound most frequently. Where this seemed inadvisable, the simplest and clearest representation has been selected.

Before considering the sounds, in detail, it will be well to explain in the first place why we have found it impossible to recommend the representation of long

vowels by the system “vowel plus consonant plus *e*,” as in *fade, cede, ride, rode, rude*. This is a very common mode of representing the sounds concerned in present spelling, and it must therefore be given 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 system has very serious disadvantages.

In the first place, it is not clear in what way the sounds in question are to be spelt when final. The logical spelling according to this system would be, e.g., “a + consonant + e” in *wane*, therefore “a + e” in *plae* (i.e. *play*); and, similarly, *see, krie, goe*. In the plural we should then have *plaze*; in the third singular, *plaze*, *gaze*; in the past participle, *plade, kride*. If, on the other hand, an existing spelling, e.g. *ay*, be suggested to denote the sound when 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 be retained, thus *bete* (i.e. *beat*), *beteing*; if omitted, the form concerned would then become identical with *beting* (i.e. *betting*), to avoid which confusion the double consonant in the latter word would have to be preserved. Since examples of this type are very numerous (e.g. the *-ing* forms of *cite, sight, site, sit, mate, mat; seat, set, etc.*), this alternative obviously becomes impossible.

In the past 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 of 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 noticeable in the plural of substantives, e.g.—

bene (i.e. *bean*): plural, *benez* 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 that the *a* is not short 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 and inconsistencies, which would be completely out of place in a logical system. The rules of accident, too, would be less simple than those given in our *Proposals* (see Chap. IV).

If the use of digraphs (which may be reduced to single letters in certain circumstances) be the best available means 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 below is not 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*, *air*, *ear*, *eir*, *oar*, *oor*, *yr*. The combinations that remain are *ar* (e.g. *farther*), *aer* (e.g. *faer*, present spelling *fair*), *ur* (e.g. *burn*), *eer* (e.g. *peer*), *ier* (e.g. *fier*, present spelling *fire*), *or*¹ (e.g. *for*), *oer* (e.g. *loer*, present spelling *lower*), *oir* (e.g. *emploir*, present spelling *employer*), *uur* (e.g. *puur*, present spelling *poor*), *our* (e.g. *our*), and *uer* (e.g. *puer*, present spelling *pure*).

The Long Vowels in Detail

6. Sound of **a** in *spa*, *father*, *palm*, *after*, *ask*, and of **ar** in *bar*.

The *a* in *spa*, *father*, *palm* has a fairly uniform pronunciation in Britain, but that in *after*, *ask*, and many other words varies in different parts of the country; these facts must be taken into account. Although the digraph *aa* is very rare in present spelling, its use seems necessary if Southern pronunciation is to be recorded. There might be no objection to retaining the single *a* in a few words such as *spa*, *father*, *rather*. But this procedure could hardly be extended to such words as *palm*, *calf*: it would give us the forms *pam*, *kaf*, which many would consider unacceptable.

Some of our Northern colleagues are, however, in favour of this mode of writing. They have expressed the opinion that no harm is done by ignoring the distinction between *aa* and ordinary short *a*, since (1) many in the North do not make it, and (2) no serious confusion of words would result for those who do make it.² Others favour the use of single *a* when *f*, *s*, *th*, *ns*, *nt*, *nd* follow (e.g. *after*, *ask*, *pass*, *bath*, *dance*, *plant*, *demand*), but would admit *aa* in *father*, *palm*, etc.

The best solution appears to be to write *aa* wherever

¹ See pp. 55, 56.

² Eg. if *calm* were written *kam*, the context would always show whether *calm* or *cam* was meant.

the long sound is commonly used in Southern pronunciation. Those who pronounce short *a* in place of it may either regard *aa* as an alternative way of writing the sound in certain words, or they may write these words with single *a* in accordance with their pronunciation.

Present spelling (Southern pronunciation): I. *a*, e.g. *father*, many cases:

finally in *aha*, *ha*, *mamma*, *papa*, *spa*.

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*, e.g. *aunt*, *draught*, *laughter*; *aa* in *baa*; *ah* in *hurrah*.

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*, in *bazaar*; *ah*, in *ah*, *hah*; *are*, in *are*; *ear*, in *hearken*, *heart*, *hearth*; *uar*, in *guard*, *er*, in *clerk*, *sergeant*.

Suggested spelling: I. On the whole it seems best to use **aa** for the sound heard in Southern English *father*, *spa*, *palm*. The alternative spelling with **a** would be admissible for those who use short *a* in such words as *after*, *class*.

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 parts of Great Britain, not to mention other English-speaking countries. The **ar** must therefore be retained (or substituted for *ear* in *heart*, for *uar* in *guard*, etc.).

Formations like *starry*, *tarry* (covered with tar) can be adequately represented by adding *y* to the simple word, thus *stary*, *tary*. The distinction, between words of this type and such words as *carry*, *tarry* (*wait*), *parish* involves certain difficulties. The best solution appears to be to write words of the latter class with *rr* (*karry*, *tarry*,

parrish). We recommend that the same principle be adopted in the case of *or* and *ur* (see pp. 56, 59). The question is discussed at length in Appendix VII.

For the sounds represented in *fee*, *fie*, and *foe*, we choose without hesitation the symbols now 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 common 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 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., not only effecting considerable economy, but obviating various lengthy conjunctions of vowels. Thus we may write *drier* (in preference to *drieer*), *being* (for *beeing*), *fliing* (for *flying*), *going* (for *goeing*). When such abbreviations are made, we think that the diaeresis ought to be employed to distinguish the digraph-vowels *ee*, *ie*, from the same vowels abbreviated before a syllable beginning with *e*.¹ For instance, it is necessary to distinguish *quite* from *quiet* (thus, respectively, *kwiet*, *kwiët*) and *sliced* from *slyest* (thus, respectively, *sliest*, *sliëst*).²

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

² The American Simpler Spelling Association recommends always writing the long vowels in full, and using a hyphen in preference to the diaeresis. In accordance with this scheme the above words would be written *beeing*, *flying*, *goeing*, *drie-er*, *kwie-et*, *slie-est*. There is much to be said in favour of this plan.

In the case of a small number of monosyllables, chiefly pronouns, the second members of the vowel digraphs may very conveniently be dropped, because, firstly, of the frequent occurrence of the words concerned, and, secondly, of the resulting economy in letters. These words, which may be regarded as “word-signs,” are: *I, U* (abbreviated from *Ue*, i.e. *you*, pp. 52, 53), *he, me, she, we, be, dhe, a*, and *to* (abbreviated from *too*). Later on it might prove advantageous to abbreviate more of the commoner monosyllables in the same way. For a possible extension of the word-sign treatment, see Appendix II, p. 101.

7. Sound of **ee** in *feel*, and of **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), *x* (14), *t* (9), *r* 13 + *-eer* suffix, 15), *t* (10), *ze* (5), sundry (13).

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

final: *he, he, me, she, the, me*;

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), *h* (16), *l* (20), *m* (12), *n* (8), *p* (5), *r* (20), *s* (25), *t* (21), *th* (6), *v* (11), sundry (11).

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

Suggested spelling: **ee**; but **e** before vowels, and in the words *me, he, she, we, be*, and *dhe*.

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

8. Sound of *ie* in *cries*, and of *ire* in *fire*.

Present spelling: *ie*, many cases:

final, e.g. *die*, 7 cases; 3rd sing. pres. ind. and preterite 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); *igh*, in *height, sleight*.

i + *cons.* + *e*, e.g. *type*, very many cases:

ibe (7), *ire* (18), *ide* (21), *ife* (6), *ike* (7), *ile* (20 + suffix 40), *ime*

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

Suggested spelling: **ie**; but reduced to **i** before vowels and in the word *I*.

Examples: *kriez, wiep, miend; dial, priory, diurnal.*

9. Sound of **oe** in *goes*, and of **ower** in *lower*.

The use of *oe* for the vowel element in *goes, road*, etc., has sometimes been adversely criticized because of its infrequency. Though by no means rare in English

(like *ae*), *oe* is certainly less common than *oa*, which itself is not in very frequent use. The argument of frequency is 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*, as well as of *ae* (see p. 54, below), also favours the selection of *oe*.

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

before *s*, e.g. *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, e.g. *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* (73), *ome* (6), *one* (1), *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*, in *hauthoy*, *mauve*; *eau*, e.g. *bureau*, 8 cases; *eo*, in *yeoman*; *ew*, in *sew* (*shew*); *oo*, in *brooch*; *ough*, e.g. *though*, 5 cases; *ou* + *l*, e.g. *soul*, 10 cases; *owe*, in *owe*.

Suggested spelling: **œ**; but reduced to **o** before vowels.

Examples: *goez*, *roeb*, *loer* (= lower); *heroik*, *koalishon*.

10. Sounds of **oo** in *good* and in *moon* and of **oor** in *poor*. The present spelling of these sounds is very unsatisfactory as will be seen by the statistics below. It is clear, however, that there is no alternative but to use **oo** for one of the above sounds and to adopt a special digraph for the other. The digraph **uu** appears to us to be the best for this purpose, and we propose to assign it to the long sound. This choice enables us to make a reduction to *u* when another vowel follows, as in *bluish*, *ruin*; when *e* follows, a diaeresis may be added or the sound may be written in full, e.g. *truër* or *truuer* (see p. 109). See further Appendix III.

Many Scottish speakers make no distinction between the vowels of *good* and *moon*. Those who pronounce thus might write *oo* for *uu*. In this case the *oo* would have to be written in full before another vowel: *blooish*, etc.

Many Southern speakers pronounce *poor* as *por*. We think, however, that the renunciation with the long *oo*-sound should be selected for the purpose of New Spelling, thus: *puur*. The same applies to *sure* (N.S. *shuur*) and a few other words.

Present spelling: *ue*, 8 cases:

after *r* (5), 1 (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), *ure* (3), *ute* (6). [Of these after *r* (15), *l* (13), *j* (5), *s* (2)].

Uncommon: *ui*, after *r* (5), *l* (1), *j* (1); *eu*, in *rheumatism*; *ieu*, in *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*, in *move*, *prove*, *lose*, *whose*.

oe, in *shoe*, *canoe*; *oeu*, in *manoeuvre*.

ough, in *through*, *brougham*.

The chief words containing the short oo sound are *good*, *hood*, *wood*, *stood*, *understood*, *hook*, *cook*, *hook*, *look*, *nook*, *shook*, *took*, *brook*, *crook*, *crooked*, *rook*, *foot*, *wool*, *soot*, *room*¹, *broom*¹, *groom*¹; *put*, *push*, *bush*, *butcher*, *bull*, *bullet*, *bully*, *pull*, *pullet*, *full*, *hurrah*, *hussar*, *could*, *should*, *would*, *caoutchouc*, *camouflage*, *silhouette*; *wolf*, *woman*.

Note. An examination of the statistics of the words of commonest occurrence in connected speech, as given in Dewey's "Relativ Frequency of English Speech Sounds" shows that in the spellings here proposed the digraph *oo* (including its shortened form in the word-sign *to*) will occur on the page more than twice as often as the digraph *uu*.

Suggested spelling: (for short *oo*) **oo**; (for long *oo*) **uu**, reduced to **u** before another Vowel.²

Examples: *good*, *pool* (= pull), *boosh*; *muun*, *fuud*, *ruul*, *puur*; *bluish*, *fluid*, *ruin*.

11. Sound of **ue** in *due* and of **ure** in *pure*.

This sound is equivalent to *yuu*, but we feel that this mode of representation would be unnecessarily cumbrous. The sound is represented in a great many ways in present spelling (see statistics below). One of these, *ue*, appears to be well suited as a representation of the sound in New Spelling. By adopting it, *e* has the function of a length mark, as it also has in *ae*, *ee*, *ie*, *oe*.

Many Southern speakers pronounce *pure* as *pyor*.³

¹ Also said with long *oo*.

² It has been suggested that *-fl* might be used as a "word-sign" to denote the termination now written *-ful* (N.S. *-fool*). This seems at first sight a convenient solution of a difficult problem, but we do not feel able to recommend it on account of difficulties which would arise in the representation of the derived adverbs.

³ Shown, for instance, in Wyld's *Universal English Dictionary*.

We think, however, that the pronunciation with *ue* should be selected for the purpose of New Spelling (*puer*).

Certain words with alternative pronunciations provide a minor complication. By no means numerically insignificant, they are exemplified by *lute* and *absolute*. In accordance with the above rules, we must allow to all these words alternative spellings with *uu* and *ue*, and, further, continue so to write them until one or other of the pronunciations in question is generalized.

The pronoun *you* would according to the above system be written *ue*. We obtain, however, the maximum amount of simplification if, on the analogy of the word-sign *I*, we drop the final *e* and use a capital for the remaining letter, thus writing *U*. This very convenient simplification we propose to adopt.¹

It is not possible to make any reduction of *ue* before another vowel: *e* will have to be written in such words as *aktueal*, *ambigueity*.

In present spelling *u* sometimes denotes the short sound *yoo* in unstressed positions, e.g. in *monument*, *calculate*. *Ue* can be written without ambiguity in such cases. *monuement*, *kalkulaet*.

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 *-ure* see p. 74..

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* (i), *uple* (i), *ume* (9), *une* (9), *upe* (i), *ure* (2i), *use* (9), *ute* (25).

¹ See p. 101.

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

Suggested spelling: ue.

Examples: *due, muet, ueth*¹ *puer*; reduced to *u* in *U* (you).

12. Sounds of **ai** in *maid*, and of **air** in *fair*.

For the vowel sound in *came, maid, veil*, etc., we propose the unmistakable digraph *ae*. We shall thus be able to use each of the five short vowel symbols (*a, e, i, o, u*) in combination with the letter *e* to form a digraph denoting a long vowel or a diphthong. This in itself will constitute a great gain to uniformity of practice.

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

Suggested spelling: ae; but reduced to **a** before vowels.

Examples: *maed, bae, laedy, dhaer, kaer; kaotik, saing*.

¹ = *youth*, the initial *y* being unnecessary. Similarly *yew* and *ewe* will both be spelt *ue*.

13. Sounds of **au** in *haul* and of **or** in *short, nor, port, more, story*.

For the vowel sound in *haul* we propose to retain the notation *au*, which would, of course, also be used where the sound is represented in the current spelling by *aw* (*draw*, etc.), *ou* (*bought*, etc.), and other symbols.

The choice of a suitable means of symbolizing the sounds of *or* in such words as *short, nor, port, more, story* presents difficulty because of the variability in the pronunciation of such words. Taking first the case of *or*-sounds in final position (e.g. *nor, more*), it must be noted firstly that many people do not pronounce them with the same sound as in *haul*. Some use a “close” *o* in words like *more*, while others use a diphthongal sound ending in an obscure vowel in many of the words; the first element of the diphthong varies between a “close” *o* and an “open” *o*. When we come to examine words containing *or* followed by a consonant, we find that they fall into two categories, (1) those which are always said with an “open” *o*, e.g. *short, horn north*, and (2) those in which many speakers use a “close” *o* or a diphthongal sound, e.g. *port, divorce, forth*, and which might therefore be appropriately written in New Spelling with *oe*. This distinction is shown in many dictionaries, including the *Oxford English Dictionary*; it is not capricious, but rather traditional and apparently also regional. It is not made by large numbers of speakers of Southern English.

This being the situation, we may in a reformed spelling represent either the speech of those who make these distinctions or the speech of those who do not make them; or again we may treat this case as one where alternative spellings should properly be admitted. To fix the spelling on the basis of those who make the above distinctions would mean that a great many people would have to

memorize the words written with *oe*. On the other hand, to ignore this distinction would be illogical to large numbers of people, and would increase the already large number of homonyms by reducing to one spelling such pairs of words as *for* and *fore*. On the whole we favour for general purposes the spelling *or* in all the above words. We feel however that *oer* should be regarded as an admissible alternative in the words which so many pronounce with “close” *o*; these words are marked with an asterisk in the Society’s *Dictionary of New Spelling*. The present spellings *oar* (as in *boar*, *board*), *our* (as in *four*, *course*), *oor* (as in *door*, *floor*) may likewise be for general purposes reduced to *or*, thus: *bor*, *bord*, *for*, *kors*, *dor*, *flor*; we think however that an alternative spelling with *oer* should be available for those who pronounce in this way.¹

It remains to deal with the words in which a vowel follows, such as *story*, *explorer*, *historian*, *oral*, *chorus*. After careful consideration of all the possibilities we have come to the conclusion that these too are generally best written simply with *or*: *story*, *eksplorer*, *historyan*, *oral*, *korus*. But here again we feel that *oer*, which accords with the pronunciation of many, should be regarded as an admissible alternative. When a stressed short *o* is followed by *r* and a vowel, as in *sorry*, *horrid*, *quarrel*, *historic*, the use of *rr* will meet the case: *sorry*, *horrid*, *kworrel*, *historrik*. These spellings are analogous to those of *stary*, *karry*, etc. (p. 46).

It is recommended, however, that *aur* be retained in the words which have it at present, e.g. *aural*, *aurist*, *saurian*. *Aural* will thus be still distinguished from *oral*

¹ In accordance with these recommendations the spelling *or* has been used in most of the Society’s publications. It has, however, been found desirable to use *oer* in the “close” *o* words in the Society’s edition of *Hamlet*. (See the Preface to that work.)

in accordance with the pronunciation of many speakers.

As the question of words spelt with *or* presents such peculiar difficulties, an Appendix has been added (Appendix VII) in which these are set out more fully, and possible solutions are discussed at length.

Present spelling: *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

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

or, final, stressed, e.g. *nor* (5), unstressed, very many cases;

before *b* (6), *ce* (2), *ch* (4), *d* (15), *g* (1), *ge* (2), *l* (4), *m* (7), *n* (20); *p* (6), *s* (9), *t* (24), *th* (3).

ore, e.g. *more*, 28 cases.

Uncommon: *ar*, in *quart*, *war*, *wharf*, 15 cases; *oar*, e.g. *boar*, 9 cases, *o'er*, in *o'er*; *oor*, in *door*, *floor*; *our*, e.g. *four*, 7 cases, and suffix *-our*, e.g. *honour*, 35 cases.

Suggested spelling: **au**, but **or** in *short*, etc.,¹ and finally, and before vowels; **aur** in words at present written with **aur**.

Examples: *haul*, *bauld*, *klau*, *braud*, *baut*; *short*, *port*, *bor*, *dor*, *story*;² *aurist*.

Sounds of **oi** and **ou**.

The spelling of the diphthongs *oi* and *ou*, by means of

¹ With *oer* as a possible alternative in the case of the words marked with * in the Society's *Dictionary of New Spelling*.

² The last four with *oer* as an admissible variant

these signs, commends itself at once. *Oy* and *ow*, which may suggest themselves to some readers, would be unsatisfactory. *Oy* is the N.S. contracted form of *oey*, as in *shoy* (O.S. *showy*), *doy* (O.S. *doughy*). *Ow* is very ambiguous in present spelling; *ou* is less so.

14. Sound of **oi** in *coin*, and of **oyer** in *employer*.

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*, in *coign*; *uoy*, in *buoy*.

Suggested spelling: **oi**.

Examples: *koin*, *boi*, *emploir*.

15. Sound of **ou** in *count*, and of **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), *n* (5), sundry (11).

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

Suggested spelling: **ou**.

Examples: *kount*, *kou*, *bou*, *sour*.

16. Sound of **ur** in *fur*, and of **er** in *further*.

Finally there is a long vowel in stressed syllables which in many forms of English is closely akin to the short obscure vowel in the unstressed syllables of *speaker*, *further*, etc. The vowel in question is now written *er* in *fern*, *ir* in *fir*, and *ur* in *fur*. Although some speakers

(especially in Scotland) differentiate between these three groups in pronunciation, most make no such distinction and pronounce them all alike. This being so, only one spelling is necessary to denote the long vowel concerned. We therefore have no hesitation in recommending *ur* for this purpose, and to use it in all stressed and semi-stressed positions, thus: *furn* (O.S. *fern*), *fur* (O.S. *fir* as well as *fur*), *vursatiel*, *vursatility*.

For the corresponding short unstressed vowel we propose as a rule to write *er*, which is its commonest representation in present spelling, e.g. *furdher*, *wauter*, *serpriez*, *perswaed*, agent nouns from verbs such as *baeker*, *teecher*, comparatives of adjectives such as *harder*, *tauler*.¹ When in Southern English the long *ur*-sound occurs unstressed, it is convenient to represent it also by *er*, e.g. *advers*, *adverb*, *uenivers*.

This scheme enables us to distinguish between such pairs of words as the noun *purmit* and the verb *permit*.

Words like *stirring*, *erring*, *purring* are distinguished in Southern English, though not by any means in all types of English, from such words as *hurry*, *worry*. It seems desirable to show this distinction in spelling; this may be done by writing *rr* in the latter case, thus *sturing*, *uring*, *piring*, but *hurry*, *wurry*. See p. 113.

Owing to the variation of pronunciation of *were* (pronounced *waer* and *wur*) and its frequent use in unstressed position, we recommend a special word-sign *wer* for it.

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.

¹On unstressed *-ar* and *-or*, see p. 64.

ir, 46 cases:

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

ur, many cases:

final (11); *sur-* prefix (16); 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*, in *journey*, *scourge*; *olo*, in *colonel*, *yr*, e.g. *myrtle*, 5 cases.

Suggested spelling: **ur** when stressed or semi-stressed, **er** when unstressed.

Examples: *fur*, *furn*, *surlly*, *hurt*, *wurd*, *sturing*, *tueburkueloesis*, *sister*, *senter*. Special case: *wer*.

For other special cases see pp. 64, 65.

Mute Vowel Letters

The scheme of suggested spellings of the vowels implies the omission of the following Mute Vowel letters—

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

e in *ea* (*heart*, etc.); *ei* (*forfeit*, etc.); *ey* (*barley*, etc.); *ie* (*mischief*, etc.).

Final e disappears from the combinations: *a* + *cons.* + *e* (*babe*, etc.); (*are*); (*mauve*); *e* + *cons.* + *e* (*cede*, etc.); *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* (*buov*); *ou* (*four*, etc.).

In addition to the above, there is a mute final *e* in the following endings, apart from those dealt with above and in connexion with double consonants, mute consonants (*stle*, p. 38), and consonants requiring change (*ce*, p. 27; *ge*, *dge*, p. 33).

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).

In all the above cases, the final *e* will be dropped.

There is also a mute final *ue* (e.g. *fatigue*) in 15 cases; the *ue* will be dropped in these words.

Note. — Final *-re* after a consonant becomes *-er*, see p. 60.

Summary of Suggested Spellings of Vowel Sounds

a in *bat* (see p. 40). N.B. —*karry*.

e in *bet* (see p. 41).

i in *pit*, **y** in *pity*, *pityus* (see p. 41).

o in *pot* (see p. 42). N.B. —*sorry*.

u in *but* (see p. 42). N.B. —*hurry*.

oo in *good* (see pp. 51, 52). N.B. —*to*.

aa in *faadher*, **ar** in *bar* (see pp. 45, 46). N.B. —*stary*.

ae in *maed*, **aer** in *faer*; but **a** before vowels (see p. 54).

ee in *feel*, **eer** in *beer*; but **e** before vowels (see p. 48). N.B.

—*me, he, she, we, be, dhe*.

au in *haul*, or in *short* (see pp. 55-57). N.B. —*story*.

oe in *goez*; but **o** before vowels (see pp. 49, 50).

uu in *fuud*, **uur** in *puur*; but **u** before vowels (see pp. 51, 52).

ie in *kriez*, **ier** in *fier*; but **i** before vowels (see p. 49).

N.B.—*I*.

ou in *kount*, **our** in *sour* (see pp. 57, 58).

oi in *koin*, **oir** in *emploir* (see pp. 57, 58).

ue in *hue*, **uer** in *puer* (see pp. 52-54). N.B. —*U*.

ur in *fur*, **er** in *furdher* (see pp. 58-60). N.B. —*sturing*.

wer (see p. 59).

Vowels in Unstressed Positions

In ordinary speech the vowels in unstressed positions are often reduced to an obscure neutral 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 at times be heard.

On the question of how these vowels should be represented, there will probably be two schools of opinion. There are many who deplore this use of obscure vowels, and strive to counteract it in their speech. They consider the weaker forms as indicating carelessness, and describe a variety of pronunciation in which they are common as slipshod. It is noteworthy, however, that their own speech usually contains a much larger number of reduced vowels than they are willing to acknowledge.

Others regard this use of obscure vowels as perfectly natural, and in fact advantageous, as giving greater prominences to the more important vowels. 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 it is unnecessary to restore sounds which actually disappeared from pronunciation long ago. And they regard it as particularly undesirable to substitute for obscure vowels other vowel-sounds which in all probability have never been used at all.

These points of view 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.

Moreover there are many words, e.g. pronouns, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs, that have both stressed and unstressed forms according to their position in the sentence. In the former case the vowel will normally

have full quality; in the latter, however, it may become reduced to the obscure vowel. Obviously, in a practical orthography, no allowance can be made for alternative pronunciations arising out of such variations in sentence stress. Accordingly our chief concern here is with the unstressed vowel within the individual word.

From what has been said above it will be clear that if at the present time an attempt were made to simplify the vowel sounds of unstressed syllables with due regard to consistency, the prevailing phonetic instability of the sounds they represent would clearly tend to produce a corresponding diversity in the spelling. Inevitably confusion would arise.

To give some examples. Few, if any, make any difference in the pronunciation of terminal *-ent* and *-ant* (e.g. *latent*, *blatant*), and for the moment, therefore, *-ent* might reasonably be considered worth generalizing. The same is true of the endings *-ence* and *-ance* (e.g. *silence*, *assistance*), for both of which *-ens* might appear to be a suitable substitute. Nevertheless there is a complication. It often happens that a certain vowel symbol in a suffix may denote the usual unstressed obscure sound, whereas in derivatives of the same word it may have full quality. Compare, e.g., *resident*, *residential*, and *pestilent*, *pestilential*; *pedant*, *pedantic*, and *consonant*, *consonantal*. It thus seems very questionable whether any real gain is secured by writing *-ant* and *-ance* with *e* as suggested above.

The ending *-an* is common. So too is *-on*. But *-en* is much more frequent than either, and, since all three are usually pronounced alike, is entitled to our preference. Yet those people who already do, or may choose to, differentiate between the spoken forms of these terminals, will wish to show the distinction in writing. Further, the existence of derivatives (cf., e.g., *organ*, *organic*; *canon*,

canonical) will induce others to disapprove of using *-en* to the exclusion of *-on* and *-an*.

Again, there is no difference in the usual pronunciation of the terminations 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 involves difficulty 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 (perhaps *-er*). A case of special difficulty is presented by the names of agents. Thus we find *jailer* beside *sailor*, *carrier* beside *warrior*, *deliverer* beside *conqueror*, *dissenter* beside *inventor*, *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 eventually agree to the use of *-er* in words designating an agent.

Further cases are mentioned in the chapter on word formation (see pp. 72-75).

In some of the cases just considered, the vowel of the unstressed syllable is the so-called neutral vowel,¹ 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. In other cases the vowel has disappeared altogether; thus in *able*, *label*, the sound following the *b* is syllabic *l*.

That the selection of an entirely satisfactory repre-

¹ Written □ in the International Phonetic Alphabet

sentative for the short vowel of unstressed syllables involves peculiar difficulties, will be readily acknowledged. The wisest course appears to be to refrain from making any revolutionary changes and keep the present spelling unchanged, except where simplification may be easily carried out, or is required in order to show relationships with cognate words. This can be done in the following cases:

(i) Obscure vowel. The unstressed terminations now spelt *-ous* and *-our* may well be written *-us* and *-or* (e.g. *relijus*, *onor*). The termination *-ure* may be written *-er* when *sh*, *zh* or *j* precedes (e.g. *presher*, *mezher*, *injer*), see p. 74. The termination *-yr* may be appropriately changed to *-ir* (e.g. *martir*, *zefir*). The indefinite article *a*, which is generally pronounced as the obscure vowel in connected speech, may well be left in its present form *a*; this may be regarded as a “word-sign.”

(ii) Unstressed short *i*-sound. As a rule the sound is represented in the current spelling by *i* (cf. p. 41), and this symbol may therefore be usefully retained with this function. To avoid ambiguity² it is, however, necessary to substitute *y* when another vowel follows, as in *fiasco* (cf. *diameter*), *superiority* (cf. *priority*), *acquiesce* (cf. *quiescent*). For the sake of consistency *y* should also replace *e* in *lineal*, *subterranean*, *phraseology*, etc.; see Appendix IV. The short *i*-sound is also now denoted by final *-y* as in *lily*, *pity*, etc., and we propose to retain *y* in this position for the reasons set out in Appendix IVf. Again, the sound is often written *e*, as in the first syllable of *because*, *emit*, *return*, *demand*, *prevent*, etc., and in the second syllable of *houses*, *goodness*, etc. Some speakers incline to

¹ See p. 74, § 8.

² On account of the reduction of *ie* to *i* before another vowel.

give this *e* the value of *e* in *bed*, many others firmly believe that they habitually do likewise, and others use the above-mentioned obscure vowel. Whichever pronunciation is used, it is convenient to retain the existing spelling with *e*.

The same short *i*-sound may often be heard in suffixes like *-age*, *-ate*, *-ain*, *-ace*, and *-ade* (as in respectively *cottage*, *plumage*; *magistrate*; *certain*, *fountain*; *palace*, *furnace*; *comrade*). Here, too, many people employ the obscure vowel, while others aim at pronouncing the terminations with full quality (as in *cage*, *gate*, *rain*, etc.). Again, the one spelling may denote two different pronunciations according as it represents two distinct meanings: cf., e.g., *estimate* as noun and as verb, and *separate* as adjective and as verb. Accordingly, in view of the prevailing diversity of practice, we seem justified in recommending that these endings be spelled *-ej*, *-et*, *-en*, *-es*, *-ed*, thus *kotej*, *prievet*, *founten*, *furnes*, *komred*. Exception must be made in the case of verbs like *estimate*, *separate* where the vowel is long, and which would end in *-aet*. It may be noted that *foreign* and *sovereign* will become *forren* and *soveren*, while *boatswain* and *coxswain* will be *boesen* and *koksen*.

This short *i*-sound also occurs finally as *-e* in such words as *acme*, *simile*, *andante*, *apostrophe*. We recommend that this *e* be retained. Where the short *i*-sound is at present written *-ee* (as in *committee*), *-is* (as in *chassis*), it has been suggested that *i* might be written. We do not think, however, that there is sufficient justification for departing from the general principle in these cases; we accordingly recommend that these words be spelt *komity*, *shasy*. (It will generally be clear from the context whether *komity* stands for the present *committee* or *comity*.)

(1) THE NEW SPELLING IN BRIEF

Arranged on an phonetic basis

CONSONANT SOUNDS					
p in	b in	t in	d in	k in	g ot
f at	v at	s et	z est	ch at	j et
h ot	l ot	r ot	w in	wh im	y et
(N.B. karry sorry, hurry)					
met	net	sing	(N.B. thank)		(lokh)
sh ut	vizhon	th ing		dh is	

VOWEL SOUNDS					
bat	bet	pit	pot	but	good
		pity			
		pityus			
faadher)	maed)	feel)	haul)	goez)	rnuun)
far)	faer)	feer)	short)	loer)	puur)
stary)	kaotik)	being)	story)	heroik)	bluish)
	krie)				
	fier)	kount)	koin)	hue)	
	dial)	sour)	emploir)	puer)	
		fur)			
		sturing)	sister		

(2) THE NEW SPELLING IN BRIEF

Arranged on an alphabetic basis

CONSONANT SOUNDS		VOWEL SOUNDS
b in	vat	bat; karry
ch at	w in	faadher, f ar; stary
d in	wh im	maed, f aer, kaotik
dh is	yet	haul, short; story
f at	zest	bet
g ot	vizhon	feel, feer, being
h ot		sister
j et		pit
k in		krie, fier, dial
(l okh)		pot; sorry
l ot		goez, loer, heroik
m et		koin, emploir
n et		good
si ng)		kount, sour
tha nk)		but; hurry
p in		hue, puer
r ot		fur, sturing
s et		rnuun, puur, bluish
sh ut		pity, pityus
t in		
th ing		

CHAPTER III
THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED
CHANGES ON WORD FORMATION

(a) Prefixes

In New Spelling prefixes have a fixed form, whenever possible. Allowance must, however, sometimes be made for the existence of alternative pronunciations. But in only three cases (*dis-*, *equi-*, *sur-*) will more than two different spellings be required, even though certain prefixes (e.g. *de-*, *pro-*, *hypo-*) may be sounded in more than two ways. Occasionally the insertion of the dæresis or a hyphen will prove to be a useful pointer to pronunciation.

1. The following prefixes would remain unchanged—

abs-	dia-	male-	pros-
ambi-	em-	meta-	retro-
an- (Greek)	en-	mis-	semi- ¹
ana-	endo	mono-	sub-
ante-	epi-	multi-	subter-
anti-	for-	non-	tetra-
apo-	forth-	ob-	to- ²
be-	hemi-	out-	ultra-
bene	hetero-	pan-	un-
bis-	homo- (Greek)	panto-	under
demi-	mal-	peri-	up-

¹ Except in a few words, mostly very rare, where a final *i* of the prefix would be changed to *y* before a vowel. The only ones that are at all common are *semyofishal* and *demy-ofishal*.

² *To* is proposed as a conventional 'word-sign,' the *o* being a contraction of *oo*. See Appendix II.

2. The following prefixes would be changed—

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>Newspelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
af-	a-	afekt
ag-	a-	agreev
al-	a-	aleevyact
amphi-	amfi-	amfitheater
an- (Latin)	a-	anouns
ap-	a-	apeel
ar-	a-, ar-	araenj, arrogant
as-	a-	asurt, ashuur
at-	a-	atempt
back-	bak-	bakboen
by-	bie-	biegon
cat-	kat-	katekizm
cata-	kata-	katastrofe
circum-	surkum-	surkumvent
cis-	sis-	sisalpien
col-	ko-	kolekt
contra-	kontra-	kontradikt
cor-	ko-, kor-	korekt, korrelaet
counter-	kounter-	kounterfoil
dif-	di-	difikult
exo-	ekso-	eksogamus
extra-	ekstra-	ekstramueral
im-	i-	imortal
ir-	i-	irigaet
of-	o-	ofend
over-	oever-	oever-whelm
post-	poest-	poestpoen
preter-	preeter-	preeternatueral
suf-	su-	sufiks, sufishent
supra-	suepra- (with variant suupra-)	suepradental (or suupra- dental)
syn-	sin-	sintaks, sinkopaet
with-	widh- (with variant with-)	widhstand (or with- stand)

3. The following prefixes would have more than one form, according to the pronunciation—

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
a- (Greek)	a-, ae-	amorfus, aetheist
ab-	ab-, a-	abstrakt, abreevyaet
ae-	ak-, a-	aksident, akumpany
ad-	ad-, a-	admier, adishon
arch-	arch-, ark-	archbishop, arkaenjel
auto-	auto-, autoe-	autonomus, automatic, autoesujeschon
bi-	bi-, bie-	bigamus, biënyal, biesikl
co-	ko-, koe-	koales, koetenant
com-	kom-, ko-	kombien, komit
con-	kon-, ko-	kondoel, konekt
de-	de-, dee-	deriev, defamaeshon, deesentraliez, deoksidiez
di-	di-, die-	diminish, dieluet, diëlektrik
dis-	dis-, di-, diz-	distinkt, dissurvis, disekt, dizeez
e-	e-, ee-	evolv, eelonggaet
ex-	eks-, egz-	eksplaen, eksekuet, egzakt
equi-	ekwi-, eekwi-, eekwy-	ekwivokal, eekwidistant, eekwyangguelar
hyper-	hieper-, hiepur-	hieperkritikal, hiepurbola
hypo-	hipo-, hiepo-	hipokrisy, hipokrit, hiepotenez, hiepodurmik
in-	in-, i-	independent, inosent
inter-	inter- intur-	interfeer, inturstis
para-	parra-, para-	parrafraez, paralisis
per-	pur-, per-	purmyaet, perseev, peroraeshon
poly-	poli-, poly-	poligamy, politeknik, polyanthus
pre-	pre-, pree-	prevent, preesupoez
pro-	pro-, pree-	proklaem, proklamaeshon, proelog
pseudo-	suedoe-, suedo- ¹	suedoesiëns, suedo-eduekaeshon, suedonim
re-	re-, ree-	return, reëstablish, reekonstrukt
super-	sueper-, suepur- (with variants suuper-, suupur-)	sueperseed, suepurlativ, (or suuperseed, suupurlativ)

¹ Those who sound the initial *p* could write it, thus *psuedoesiëns*, *psuedo-eduekaeshon*, *psuedonim*.

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>New spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
sur-	sur-, ser-, se-	surfit, surreptishus, serpriez, serender
sus-	sus-, su-	suspend, suseptibl
sym-	sim-, si-	simfony, simetry
trans-	trans-, tranz- ¹	transfur, tranzakshon

(b) Endings

1. The following endings would remain unchanged—

	<i>Examples</i>
-ant	important
-dom	kingdom
-eer	charyoteer
-ent	evident
-est	graetest
-hood	manhood
-ish	chieldish
-ity	brevity
-kin	napkin
-ling	darling
-ly	frendly
-oid	tabloid
-ry	pedantry
-ship	lordship
-sy	heresy
-ward	forward
-y	wooly

2. The terminations *-ing* and *-ist* would remain unchanged, except that it might be desirable to add a diæresis in some words when *o* precedes, as in *egoïst*. It would not be necessary to add a diæresis in *going*, *throing*, etc., since the ordinary *oi* diphthong never occurs before *ng*.

3. The following endings containing long vowels or diphthongs may be simplified without difficulty as follows—

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-ate	-aet	imitaet
-ene	-een	benzeen

¹ Speakers who sound *aa* in all or any of these words could write *traaxs-*, *traanz-*.

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-fy	-fie	magnifie
-ier (when pronounced <i>-eer</i>)	-eer	gondoleer
-ile	-iel ¹	hostiel
-ine	-ien, -een	divien, turpention, mareen
-ise, -ize	-iez	authoriez, dogmatiez
-ose	-oes	rnooes, gluukoos
-tude	-tued	magnitued

4. The undermentioned terminations containing short vowels may also be simplified without difficulty as under—

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-ance	-ans	importans
-asm	-azm	enthuezyazm
-cy	-sy	legasy
-eal-	-yal	corporyal
-ence	-ens	evidens
-fic	-fik	prolifik
-ful	-fool	plentifool
-ic	-ik	komik
-ice	-is	justis
-ine	-in	doktrin
-ism	-izm	kritisizm
-ive	-iv	pensiv
-less	-les	helples
-logue	-log	epilog
-ness	-nes	goodnes
-our	-or	kulor
-ous	-us	tremendus
-sion	-shon, -zhon	manshon, purmishon, okaezhon
-some	-sum	handsum
-tion	-shon, -chon, -tyon	atenshon, sujeshon, bastyon
-trix	-triks	inheritriks

5. Terminations such as *-ia*, *-ial*, *-ean*, *-ian*, *-eous*, *-ious* will vary according to the pronunciation. In most

¹ Those who pronounce this ending with short *i* might prefer to write it *-il*.

cases they would be written *-ya, -yal, -yan, -yan, -yus, -yus, etc.*, thus: *maenya, meenyal, subteraenyan, barbaeryan, pityus, industryus*, etc. Where, however, the sound of *sh* or *ch* or *j* precedes, these endings would be written *-a, -al, -an, -an, -us, -us, etc.*, the *i* or *e* of present spelling not being sounded, thus: *milisha, komurshal, oeshan, optishan, hurbaeshus, preshus, jenshan, theoloajan*, etc. See Appendix IV.

Y would be introduced in such words as *oeshyanik, komurshyality*, because of the pronunciation.

6. We recommend that the terminations *-iel, -ien* as in *spaniel, alien* be written *-yel, -yen*. See Appendix IV.

7. The *e* should be dropped in the endings *-ble, -cle, -dle, -gle, -kle, -ple, -tle*, etc.

<i>Old Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-ble	-bl	vizibl
-cle	-kl	orakl
-ple	-pl	multipl

8. The ending *-ure* presents several difficulties because it is pronounced in different ways, cp. *allure, mature, overture, pressure, gesture, procedure*. On the whole it seems best to write *-uer* in both stressed and unstressed positions, except after *sh, zh* and *j*, when the short form *-er* may be used: thus *aluer, matuer, epikuer, figuer, jestuer, naetuer, proseeduer*, but *presher, tonsher, azher, mezher, injer*. The use of *-uer* should be extended to derivatives like *natural, centurion, figurative*, thus (New Spelling) *natueral, sentueryon, figuerative*. But *injuuryus*¹ is recommended for Old Spelling *injurious*.

9. The unstressed terminations *-ace, -ade, -age, -ate, -ain, -ange, eign, -iage* when pronounced with a short *i* or an obscure vowel may be written with *e*, e.g.—

¹ Note also New Spelling *shuar* for *sure* (cf. p. 51).

<i>Old spelling</i>	<i>New spelling</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-ace	-es	furnes
-ade ¹	-ed	komred
-age	-ej	kabej
-ate	-et	prievet
-ain	-en	mounten
-ange	-enj	orrenj
-eign	-en	forren
-iage	-ei, -yej	karrej, foelyej

10. The unstressed terminations *-ane*, *-ave*, may be written *-aen*, *-aev*, or *-en*, *-ev* according to the pronunciation, e.g. *mundaen*, *konklaev*, but *huriken*, *oktev*. *Mullein* may be written *mulen*.

11. The termination *-er* would generally remain unchanged. It would, however, be convenient to reduce it to *-r* after *ue* and *oi*, e.g. *fuer* (Old Spelling *fewer*), *pursuer*, *emploir*. After *a*, *e* and *u* (shortened from *ae*, *ee*, *uu* respectively) a diæresis should be added, e.g. *gaër* (Old Spelling *gayer*), *freër*, *bluër*.

12. Final pronounced *e* in words of foreign origin may be left unchanged, e.g. *andante*, *apostrofe*, *ekstempore*, *finaale* (Old Spelling *finale*), *faksimile*.

(c) Changes in the Stem

Generally speaking, it is desirable that derivatives should keep the spelling of the parent word unchanged or almost unchanged, so as to reveal the connexion between them clearly. We therefore write in new spelling *wed*, *weding*, *weded*, *noet*, *noetabl*, *noetaeshon*, *history*, *historyan*, *vaery*, *vaeryaeshon*, *vaeryabl*.

There are cases where the proposed changes would tend to obscure the connexion between related words.

¹ But, when stressed, *-ade* would be written *-aed*, e.g. *barrikaed*, *kavalkaed*. Also in *dekaed*.

Such are—

<i>Present Spelling</i>		<i>Proposed Spelling</i>	
atrocious	atrocitv	atroeshus	atrosity
fable	fabulous	faebl	fabuclus
finite	infinite	fieniet	infinif
introduce	introduction	introdues	introdukshon
lose	lost	luuz	lost
maniac	maniacal	maenyak	maniakl
oration	oratory	oraeshon	orratory
penalize	penalty	peenaliez	penalty
punish	punitive	punish	puenitiv
say	says	sae	sez
serene	serenity	sereen	serenity
sulphur	sulphuric	sulfur	sulfuerik
vice	vicious	vies	vishus
volcano	volcanic	volkaenoe	volkanik
wil	would	wil	wood
zeal	zealous	zeel	zelus

In other cases the new spelling renders the connexions between words clearer than at present. Such are—

<i>Present Spelling</i>		<i>Proposed Spelling</i>	
bid	bidding	bid	biding
cat	kitten	kat	kiten
complex	complicate	komplek	kompukaet
demolish	demolition	demolish	demolishon
duke	ducal	duek	duekal
humour	humorous	huemor	huemorus
occur	occurring	okur	okuring
pity	piteous	pity	pityus
propel	propelling	propel	propeling
vapour	vaporize	vaepor	vaeporiez
vicious	vitiate	vishus	vishyaet

CHAPTER IV

THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE ON THE RULES OF ACCIDENCE

(a) Inflection 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 tense and of past participle of weak verbs;
 (g) Verb: formation of past tense and of past 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) *Inflection 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</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>ch</i> : add <i>s</i> (with apostrophe for genitive ¹)	kats pips ruufs roks	hits peeps laafs speeks
When the stem ends in a vowel or in a voiced consonant other than <i>z</i> , <i>zh</i> or <i>j</i> : add <i>z</i> (with apostrophe for genitive ¹). When the stem ends in <i>y</i> , change to <i>i</i>	dogz hilz daez boiz klauz bouz sitiz	bidz telz paez emploiz drauz bouz enviz
When the stem ends in <i>s</i> , <i>z</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>zh</i> , <i>ch</i> or <i>j</i> : add <i>ez</i> (for genitive ' <i>ez</i> , <i>ez</i> ' ¹ .)	horsez roeez dishez miraazhez churchez aejez	dresez freezez wishez ruuzhez reechez urjez

¹ See Appendix VI.

Special cases—

Nouns in *f* have *f* 's in genitive, *fs* or *vz* in plural: *ruuf*, *ruufs*
but *loef*, *loevz*.

The plural of *hous* is *houzez*.

(Note.—There is nothing in the spoken language corresponding to the apostrophe in the possessives *dog's*, *dogs'*, and its absence is not missed. Some are of the opinion that there is no more need for it in the written language than in the spoken. See, however, Appendix VI.)

(b) *Plurals in -en and irregular plurals—*

There are a few plurals in *-en—*

oks: oksen; chield: children.

Irregular plurals—

man: men

foot: feet

mous: mies

wooman: wimen

guus: gees

lous: lice

tuuth: teeth

(c) *Adjectives*. The *degrees of comparison* are formed by adding *-er* (*-r* after *oe*, *oi*, *ue*), *-est*, e.g.—

cheep	cheaper	cheapest	hie	hiër ¹	hiëst
larj	larjer	larjest	sily	silver	silyest
hot	hoter	hotest	free	freer	frost
faer	faerer	faerest	loe	loer	loëst
truu	truër	truëst	gae	gaër	gaëst
fue	fuer	fueëst	koi	koir	koiest

(d) *Formation of Adverbs—*

to the adjective add *-ly*, e.g. *bad*, *badly*; *vaen*, *vaenly*; but if it ends in *l* add *-y*, e.g. *final*, *finaly*; *teribl*, *teribly*. The adverbs *hoelly* (= wholly), *soelly* (= solely) have *ll*.

¹Or *hier*, without diæresis, in accordance with the pronunciation of those who sound the word like *hire*.

(e) *Verb: form in -ing*—
No rules required.

Examples: *sel, seling; tuch, tuching; see, seing; flie, fliing; plae, plaing; go, going*.¹

(f) *Verb: formation of past tense and past participle of weak verbs*—

Rules—

When the stem ends in
a vowel. add *d*. (If the
verb ends in *y*, change
to *i*.)

Examples

plaed
freed
valued
emptid

When the stem ends in *t* or
d: add *ed*

fited
sueted
aded
gieded

When the stem ends in a
voiceless consonant other
than *t* (viz. *p, k, f, s, sh, ch,*
th) - add *t*

hoept rusht
sockt wocht
laaft burtht
mist

When the stem ends in a
voiced consonant other
than *d* (viz. *b, g, v, z, zh,*
j, dh, l, r, m, n, ng): add *d*

ebd fild
begd urd
luvd feerd
raezd hamerd
ruuzhd skimd
jujd diend
bangd suudhd

¹ The diæresis may be omitted in *going* since the diphthong *oi* never occurs before *ng*.

Special cases-

(i) With *e* in past—

breed: bred	keep: kept	kreep: krept	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: sae: sed.

(ii) with *au* in past—

bie: baut	bring: braut	kach: kaut	seek: saut
beseech. besaut	teech. taut	think: thaut	

(iii) *luuz*: lost *shuu*: shod.

Note: hav: had.

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

(abide)	abied	aboed	aboed
(awake)	awaek	awoek	awoek
(bear)	baer	bor ¹	born
(behold)	behoeld	beheld	beheld
(bid)	bid	bad (baed)	biden
		bid	bid
(bind)	biend	bound	bound
(blow)	bloe	bluu	bloen
(chide)	chied	chid	chiden
(choose)	chuuz	chooz	choezen
(cleave)	kleev	klaev	kloev(en)
(crow)	kroe	kruu	[kroed]
(come)	kum	kaem	kum
(dig)	dig	dug	dug
(draw)	drau	druu	draun
(drive)	driev	droev	driven

¹ Or *boer*, see p. 56, and Appendix VII.

Verb.

(drink)	drink	drank	drunk
(eat)	eet	et (aet)	eeten
(fly)	flie	fluu	floen
(fling)	fling	flung	flung
(forget)	forget	forgot	forgoten
(forsake)	forsaek	forsook	forsaeken
(get)	get	got	got
(give)	giv	gaev	given
(grow)	groe	gruu	groen
(hang)	hang	hung	hung
(hew)	hue	[hued]	huen
(lade)	laed		laeden
(lie)	lie	lae	laen
(mow)	moe	[moed]	moen
(rive)	riev		riven
(ring)	ring	rang	rung
(wring)	ring	rung	rung
(see)	see	sau	seen
(sow)	soe	[soed]	soen
(shake)	shaek	shook	shaeken
(shear)	sheer	[sheerd]	shorn
(shine)	shien	shon	shon
(show)	shoe	[shoed]	shoen
(shrink)	shrink	shrank	shrunk
(sing)	sing	sang	sung
(sink)	sink	sank	sunk
(sit)	sit	sat	sat
(slay)	slae	sluu	slaen
(slink)	slink	slunk	slunk
(smite)	smiet	smoet	smiten
(spin)	spin	spun	spun
(stand)	stand	stood	stood
(steal)	steel	stoel	stoelen
(stride)	stried	stroed	striden
(strive)	striev	stroev	striven
(swear)	swaer	swor ¹	sworn ¹
(swell)	swel	[sweld]	swoelen
(tear)	taer	tor ¹	torn ¹

¹Or with *oe*, see p. 56.

Verb:

(thrive)	thriev	throev	thriven
(throw)	throe	thruu	throen
(wake)	waek	woek	woek(en)
(wear)	waer	wor ¹	worn ¹
(weave)	weev	woev	woeven
(win)	win	wun	wun

Note—

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

¹Or with *oe*, see p. 56, and Appendix VII.

CHAPTER V
WORDS NOW DIFFERING IN SPELLING TO
WHICH THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD
GIVE THE SAME FORM

It is sometimes urged against attempts to simplify the spelling that a number of words now spelt differently would, in a simplified spelling, become identical in form. This is, of course, true; but there is not much force in the argument, since in nearly every case the context makes it clear which meaning is intended, just as, despite the present spelling, the difference between the bark of a dog and the bark of a tree is nevertheless apprehended without difficulty.

(a) The following are examples of words which would become homonyms in New Spelling—

<i>Present Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Present Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>
aloud, allowed	aloud	die, dye	die
aught, ought	aut	draft, draught	draaft
bare, bear	baer	fair, fare	faer
bean, been	been	four, fore, for	for ²
below, bellow	beloe	freeze, frieze	freeze
birth, berth	burth	grate, great	graet
bogic, bogy	boegy	hart, heart	hart
born, borne	born ¹	heard, herd	hurd
canvas, canvass	kanvas	hour, our	our
coarse, course	kors ¹	knave, nave	naev
cockscorb, coxcomb	kokscoem	knead, need	need
committee, comity	komity	knew, new	nue
dew, due	due	knight, night	niet

¹ *Borne, coarse* and *course* have alternative spellings, *boern, koers*, in N.S.

² *Four* and *fore* would have an alternative spelling, *foer*, in N.S.

<i>Present Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>	<i>Present Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>
knot, not	not	rote, wrote	roet
know, no	noe	rung, wrung	rung
knows, nose	noez	rye, wry	rie
meat, meet	meet	scent, sent	sent
mist, missed	mist	sight, site	siet
pause, paws	pauz	son, sun	sun
peace, piece	pees	stake, steak	staek
picket, piquet	piket	steal, steel	steel
practice, practise	praktis	taught, taut	taut
praise, prays, preys	praez	weak, week	week
reck, wreck	rek	wood, would	wood
right, rite, write	riet		

Note.— The only case in which ambiguity would arise at all frequently (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), we recommend that they be written in their present forms. See p. 56.

(*b*) Less numerous, without doubt, are the cases in which the current spelling represents in the same way words which differ in pronunciation. Here New Spelling naturally reveals the distinction clearly. Some examples are contained in the following list—

<i>Present Spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>
abuse (noun, verb)	abues, abuez
bow (noun, verb)	boe, bou
deliberate (adj., verb)	deliberet, deliberaet
estimate (noun, verb)	estimet, estimaet
ferment (noun, verb)	furment, ferment
house (noun, verb)	hous, houz
lead (verb, noun)	leed, led
live (adj., verb)	liev, liv
lower (adj., verb)	loer, lour
minute (noun, adj.)	minit, mienuet
mouth (noun, verb)	mouth, moudh
permit (noun, verb)	purmit, permit
premise (noun, verb)	premis, premiez

<i>Present spelling</i>	<i>New Spelling</i>
protest (noun, verb)	proetest, protest
read (present, preterite)	reed, red
row (of houses; uproar)	roe, rou
slough (swamp; cast skin)	slou, sluf
sow (verb, noun)	soe, sou
wind (air in motion; coil)	wind, wiend
wound (injury; coiled)	wuund, wound

(c) It is possible to draw up a third and very considerable list of words which according to the current spelling have the same form and are pronounced alike. (About 750 such pairs are given in *Skeat's Etymological Dictionary*, Appendix.) A few examples are—

art (thou art; the art)	found (to found; past of <i>to find</i>)
bear (to bear; a bear)	hop (jump; plant)
bound (to bound; past of <i>to bind</i>)	lie (to lie down; to tell a lie)
box (case; tree; fight with fists)	might (past of <i>may</i> ; power)
down (opp. of <i>up</i> ; hill; soft feathers)	page (of book; attendant)
fell (past of <i>to fall</i> ; adj.)	rank (grade; coarse)
felt (past of <i>to feel</i> , noun)	spoke (he spoke; a spoke)
	stole (he stole; a stole)
	well (a well; adv.)

See page 102.

CHAPTER VI

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 *Oxford English Dictionary* shows many inconsistencies, a few of which are given in the list below. We doubt if any educated person would write out all these words from dictation in the form approved by the O.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.

Examples of the spelling of compound words in the Oxford 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	cockscorb	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	

<i>Hyphen</i>	<i>One Word</i>	<i>Two Words</i>
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 evident that, where so much diversity of practice prevails in authoritative places, it is not possible to make recommendations at this stage. Users of New Spelling cannot do better than follow the recommendations of the *Authors' and Printers' Dictionary* in all ordinary cases.

There is one particular problem, however, which requires immediate attention, as well as a definite decision. It concerns certain compounds containing sequences of two consonants which at first sight may appear ambiguous because they are liable to be identified with one or other of the accepted digraphs. These digraphs are: *th, dh, sh, zh, ng, nk* (as in respectively *tuuthaek, iedher, fashon, vizhon, singer, lanky*). The same pairs of consonant letters would also normally occur in the simplified forms of *shorthand, adhere, dishearten, mishap, clothes-horse, green-gage, corncrake*. Hence it becomes necessary, in order to avoid the possibility of misinterpretation, to interpose a hyphen, thus *short-hand, ad-heer, dis-harten, mis-hap, kloe(dh)z-hors, green-gaej, korn-kraek*. Accordingly we recommend that whenever two words are compounded to form a third, thus bringing into juxtaposition two consonants that are capable of being mistaken for one of the regular digraphs, these consonants should be separated by a hyphen. Similar considerations sometimes apply to words formed with a prefix; see Appendix on *ng*) p. 99.

CHAPTER VII

THE SPELLING OF PROPER NAMES

The question arises how proper names (English and foreign) should be spelt. Some spelling reformers have maintained that strict consistency should be observed, and that all English names (both personal and geographical) and the foreign names which have definite anglicized forms should have their spelling reformed in the same way as other words. Others have expressed the opinion that no attempt should be made to change the spelling of personal names, but that place-names should be simplified. Others again hold the view that all proper names should remain in their present form.

We think that the question of personal names should be left to the taste of the persons bearing the names. Thus we do not consider it essential that persons named *Jones* should change the spelling to *Joenz*; on the other hand we should not seek to dissuade anyone of this name from making this simplification if he felt so disposed.

There would, however, be no objection to reforming the spelling of the names of historical or mythological personages which have recognized English forms. Such are *Juulyus Seezar*, *Vurjil*, *Hoemer*, *Ueklid*, *Miedas*, *Konfueshyus*.

The question of geographical names is rendered difficult by the fact that many of them have given rise to formations (nouns, adjectives and verbs) which presumably should be written in the new way. Most of the adjectives and the nouns denoting inhabitants are at present written with capital letters (*French*, *German*, *Spaniard*, etc.), while verbs and other nouns are, as a rule,

written with small initial letters (*americanism, romanize, frenchify*, etc.). Some have a capital or small letter according to the meaning (e.g. *roman, arabic, pacific, arabesque*). Sometimes too the name of a place is adopted to denote an article, and is in that case written with a small initial letter (e.g. *china, cashmere*).

It has been suggested that all the words, original or derived, which are at present written with a capital letter should remain in their existing forms. This, however, would lead to many anomalies, such as *American: amerikaniez, Roman history: roeman, tiep, Pacific Oeshan: pasifik meenz, China: chiena*.

A further difficulty arises when ordinary words are taken for naming streets, etc. For instance the word regent appears in new spelling as *reejent*. Should we then revert to *Regent* in *Regent Street*?

In view of the above considerations we feel disposed to recommend that English place-names and anglicized foreign place-names be written in New Spelling, e.g. *Ingländ* (or *Inggländ*), *Fraans* (or *Frans*), *Jurmany*, *Lundon*, *Liverpuul*, *Burmiigam*, *Uerop*, *Iesha*, *Roem*, *Moskoe*, *Marsaelz*. We recognize, however, that legal and other difficulties may arise, and we therefore propose to leave this question to be decided later in the light of further experience.

Some place-names have variant pronunciations. The re-spelling of these would involve rulings as to the most suitable forms by appropriate authorities. There would appear to be no insuperable difficulty in securing these. Such a ruling has already been given by the B.B.C. in the case of *Daventry*; the old local pronunciation *Daentry* has been rejected in favour of *Daventry*. A similar procedure might well be followed in the case of *Cirencester* (pronounced *Sierensester, Sisister* and *Siziter*),

Uttoxeter (pronounced *Uetokseter*, *Utokseter* and *Ukseter*),
Gloucester (pronounced *Gloster* and *Glauster*),
Marylebone (pronounced *Marrileboen*, *Marribon*,
Marlibon) and other place-names with variable
pronunciation.

A list of important place-names which would be
affected by the adoption of New Spelling for them is given
in Appendix VIII.

CHAPTER VIII

FOREIGN WORDS

We use in English a certain number of foreign words and phrases, e.g. *qui vive*, *entente*, *sine qua non*, *ad infinitum*, *prima facie*, *bona fide*, *vice versa*, *zeitgeist*, *zollverein*, *ayah*. These will naturally remain unchanged. On the other hand words that have been fully incorporated in our language will be spelt in the new way, as for instance *ajenda* (agenda), *aelyas* (alias), *alibie* (alibi), *apleekae* (appliqué), *balae* (ballet), *broonet* (brunette), *buurzhwaa* (bourgeois), *cheloe* ('cello), *daeta*, *kafae* (café), *fuero* (furore), *hiaetus* (hiatus), *ioeta* (iota), *nueklyus* (nucleus), *nueklyie* (nuclei), *turminus* (terminus), *turminie* (termini). The case of *coupon*, *restaurant*, *debutante* is more complicated. Many pronounce these words with a nasal vowel in the last syllable, as in French, which cannot be represented in the New Spelling. Others give these words an English pronunciation which can be spelt *kuupon*, *restorant*, *daebuetaant*, and it seems likely that this will prevail.

It is often difficult to decide whether a word of foreign origin is still to be treated as “foreign” or whether it can be regarded as fully incorporated into English. Users of New Spelling must use their discretion in the application of the new system to such words.

CHAPTER IX

A SPECIMEN OF NEW SPELLING

Objekshonz to a Chaenj in dhe prezent Speling

We instinktivly shrink from eny chaenj in whot iz familyar; and whot kan be mor familyar dhan dhe form ov wurdz dhat we hav seen and riten mor tiemz dhan we kan posibly estimaet? We taek up a book printed in Amerika, and *honor* and *center* jar upon us every tiem we kum akros dhem; nae, eeven to see *forever* in plaes *ov for ever* atrakts our atenshon in an unplezant wae. But dheez ar iesolaeted kaesez; think ov dhe meny wurdz dhat wood hav to be chaenj'd if eny real impruuvment wer to rezult. At dhe furst glaans a pasej ijti eny reformd speling looks “kweer” or “ugly”. Dhis objekshon iz aulwaez dhe furst to be maedg it iz purfektly natueral; it iz dhe hardest to remuuv. Indeed, its efekt iz not weekend until dhe nue speling iz noe longger nue, until it haz been seen ofen enuf to be familyar.

Dhe sekond objekshon ofen urjd iz, dhat wurdz which sound aliek, but hav at prezent a diferent speling, wood noe longger be distinggwishabl, and konfuezhon wood ariez. *Night* and *knight*, *right*, *write* and *rite*, for instans, wood hav to be spelt in dhe saem wae. But whot ov dhat? Aafter aul, whot iz riten shood baer reeding aloud. Ar we unsurten in dhe spoeken langgwej whedher *night* or *knight* iz ment in eny partikuelar kontekst? Kood U maek up sentensez in which dhaer wood be ambigueity, in which, for instans, *right*, *write*, and *rite* wood eech giv sens? Eeven in dhe langgwej az it iz nou spelt egzaamplz ov wurdz iedentikal in form but diferent in meening ar not

raer; *art* mae be a noun or a vurb (*thou art*), *bound* mae be an infinitiv or a paast tens, *bear* mae be a noun or a vurb. Furdher, dhaer ar kaesez in which dhe prezent speling haz iedentity ov form, auldhoe dhaer iz a diferens ov pronun-syaeshon (which in a konsistent speling wood neseditaet diferens ov form); e.g., *lead* (vurb) and *lead* (noun), *row* (ov houzez) and *row* (*upror*), *read* (prezent) and *read* (paast).

Dhe aanser, dhen, to dhis objekshon iz dhat whot givz noe trubl in dhe spoeken langgwej iz not liekly to giv trubl in its riten form; and dhat if in wun or tuu kaesez tribi aroez, it wood be kounterbalanst bie dhe avoidans ov ambiguity in udher kaesez.

Dhe objekshon to which moest waet iz jeneraly atacht iz dhe "etimolojikal": a chaenj ov speling wood, it iz sed, obskuer dhe derivaeshon. It miet sufies to point to dhe fakt dhat Profesor Skeat, huuz authororritativ pozishon among English skolarz iz uenivursaly rekogniezd, woz for meny yeerz a champion ov speling reform; to meny dhis wil seem a sufisent aanser. But dhaer iz soe much misaprehenshon on dhis point, and such straenj staetments ar maed, dhat it bekumz nesesity to deel widh dhis objekshon in sum deetael.

We rekwier dhe langgwej az an instrooment; we mae aulsoe study its history. Dhe prezens ov unpronounst leterz, three or for diferent waez ov representing dhe saem sound, three or for uesez ov dhe saem leter: aul dhis detrakts from dhe value ov a langgwej az an instrooment. When we plaes dhis instrooment in dhe hand ov dhe chield, we duu not at dhe saem tiem teech it historrikal gramar.

Agaen, let us not forget huu form dhe graet majorrity ov dhoez dhat lurn to reed and riet. Dhae ar dhe children dhat atend priemary skuulz; dhaer tiem iz limited. We

hav noe riet to impoez on dhem a kaotik speling for dhe saek ov posibly teeching dhem a litl historrikal gramar.

But it mae be sed dhat it iz misleading to speek in dhis konekshon ov historrikal gramar; dhat it iz dhe derivaeshon dhat iz obskuerd, and dhat dhis iz a real los. Whot iz ment iz, dhat it wil bekum les eezy to konekt dhe English wurdz widh French or Latin wurdz and widh Tuetonik wurdz.

It must be born in miend dhat dhe mas ov dhe naeshon lurnz noe forren langgwejez, and dhe oportuenitiz for komparrison ar wonting. But let us konsider dhe kwiet apreeshyabl number ov dhoez huu noe wun or several forren langgwejez; wil dhae not luuz sumthing if dhe konekshon between English and forren wurdz iz obskuerd?

Our vokabuelary haz meny elements; but in dhe maen it konsists ov wurdz ov Tuetonik orrijin and wurdz which goe bak, direktly or indirekty, to Latin. A larj number ov dhe derivativz from Latin (probably dhe graet majorriity) prezent litl difikulty; dhae hav undergon komparrativly litl sound-chaenj sins dhae enterd dhe langgwej. A reezonabl simplified speling wood leev dhem very much az dhae ar nou. (Dhus, selecting wurdz from dhis parragraaf, dhaer iz seen to be litl or noe chaenj in *element*, *konsist*, *derivative*, *probably*, *majorriiy*—noe chaenj kalkuelaeted to obskuer dhe derivaeshon.)

Dhe wurdz dhat giv trubl ar dhe wurdz ov Tuetonik orrijin. Dheez (speeking kwiet jeneraly) wood rekwier much mor ekstensiv chaenjez in eny skeem ov simplified speling. Dhe *k* of *knave* wood disapeer, and dhe konekshon widh dhe Jurman *Knabe* wood bekum les obvyus; dhe oemishon ov *gh* from *night* maeks dhe wurd les liek *Nacht*. Undoutedly dhaer iz a faer number ov wurdz dhat belong to dhis kategory.

Asueming dhat dhe obskuering ov derivaeshonz went much fardher dhan it iz liekly to duu in eny akseptabl skeem ov simplified speling, wood dhaer be eny real los?

Befor repliing, it mae be wel to konsider anudher objekshon which iz ofen urjd: dhe introdukshon ov anudher speling wood maek aul dhe egzisting books uesles. I am not kwiet klee whie dhis objekshon shood be soe redily urjd; for shuurly it iz kwiet unreezonabl. Dhe introdukshon ov a nue speling iz not dhe wurk ov daez or weeks; it wood be imposibl (eeven if it wer dezierabl) at wuns to suplie in dhe nue speling aul dhe books dhat ar wonted, and to remuuv aul dhe oeld books in dhe oeld speling. Evribody wood be aebl to reed dhe oeld speling widhout difikulty; dhoez braut up on dhe nue speling wood be familiar widh dhe oeld, dhoe dhae wood hardly look upon it widh admiraeshon.

To dhe lurner interested in dhe history ov dhe langgwej dhe oeld speling wood be eezily aksesibl; far mor eezily dhan dhe speling ov Chauser or eeven Shaekspeer. He wood be aebl to traes derivaeshonz kwiet az eezily az nou; and he wood enjoi dhis graet advaantej, dhat he kood not eskaep dhe soundz and deel widh leterz oenly—which iz at present soe seeryus a daenjer in dhe paath ov dhe yung stuedent ov langgwej. He wood aask himself agaen and agaen whie dhe oeld speling (unliek dhe nue) deevyaeted soe freekwently from dhe pronunnyaeshon. Whot he nou aksepts widhout thinking he wood analiez and egzamin. Dhe study ov filology iz bound to gaen graet advaantej when dhe speling ov a langgwej iz a faer reprezentaeshon ov dhe soundz.

I hav not yet direkted atenshon to dhe fakt dhat dhe present speling iz not aulwaez a saef gied in materz ov derivaeshon. Dhoez huu think dhat dhe speling shood not oenly represent dhe soundz, but aulsoe sujest dhe orrijin

ov dhe wurd, shood surtenly not kontinue to riet widh dhe prezent misleeding speling *scent*, *sovereign*, and meny udher wurdz; and if a sielent *b* iz kept in *debt* “to shoe dhe derivaeshon,” whie not insurt a sielent *c* in *lettuce* (from *lactuca*)? And if *ph* iz kept in *philosophy* to shoe dhat dhe wurd kumz from dhe Greek, whie not be konsistent and riet *phancy*? A simplified speling wood giv us *sent*, not *scent*, and wood dhus prezent a form etimolojikaly, az wel az fonetikaly, mor korekt; it wood giv us *det*, not *debt*, which agaen wood be mor korekt, for dhe wurd iz, derievd direktly from French *dette*, and oenly indirektly from Latin *debita*; and az for dhe *ph*, wil it be maentaend dhat dhe Italyan huu riets *filosofia* iz on dhat akount les liekly dhan we ar to noe dhat dhe wurd iz derievd from dhe Greek?

To sum up dhe aanser to dhe “etirnolojikal” objekshon. Dhe langgwej az an instrooment wood be impruuvd bie dhe adopshon ov a simplified speling; for purposez, ov study dhe prezent speling wood stil be abundantly avaelabl. Dhe konekshon ov form between English and French or Latin wurdz wood be very litl obskuerd in dhe nue speling; wurdz ov Tuetonik orrijin wood hav to be chaenj d mor, but dhe stuedent kompaering, let us sae, English and Jurman wood be in noe wae inkonveenyenst.

Dhe laast objekshon dhat I hav hurd—and to mie miend it hardly dezurvz menshon—iz dhat it iz good disiplin to maek children lurn such a speling az ourz. I shood be dhe laast to dezier dhe weakening ov wil or dhe relaksing ov efort in our skuulz; but I hav noe simpathy widh dhe iedea dhat difikultiz hav an intrinsik value. We duu not teech children to riet widh dhaer feet, bekauz ov dhe moral and intelektueal advaantejez to be gaend from oeverkuming difikultiz. We teech dhem to grapl widh difikultiz bekauz in dhe proeses surten valueabl pourz ar being eksersiezd—bekauz dhaer iz sum definit end to be

ataend when dhe difikultiz ar oeverkum. We giv dhem praktis in drauing dedukshonz, in formuclaeting ruulz, in apliing dhem. Whot ov aul dhis iz dhaer in dhe teeching ov dhe kurrent speling? We hav to sae: *b e d* spelz *bed*, and *h e a d* spelz *head*. If dhe chield aasks: whie not *h e d*?, we kan giv noe reezon. Dhaer iz noe satisfactory ruul to gied dhe chield. Dhe soundz duu not help. Dhis iz a difikulty for dhe chield and remaenz a difikulty until repetishon haz maed dhe unreezonabl speling *head* familyar. Whot haz been dhe gaen? It wood be hard to sae; but dhe los iz obvyus; tiem and efort hav been spent which miet hav been beter emploid udherwiez.

APPENDIX I

DIGRAPHS

TH, DH

Many reformers would be content to retain the digraph *th* in its present dual capacity. In their view, the proposed use of *dh* for the voiced sound will not only be too great a shock to conservative sentiment, but will also scarcely effect any substantial simplification. (See also on Word-Signs, Appendix II.)

It must be remarked, however, that a certain number of pairs of words are distinguished by *th* and *dh*: *thee* (thigh), *dhie* (thy); *eether* (ether), *eedher* (either); *sheeth* (sheath), *sheedh* (sheathe); *teeth* (teeth), *teedh* (teethe); *reeth* (wreath), *reedh* (wreathe); *mouth* (mouth), *mouhdh* (mouth).

Those who favour the use of *th* and *dh* consider that failure to show the distinction would be an arbitrary breach of consistency in the interests of the adult generation.

NG

There is admittedly a difficulty in the representation of two consecutive but separate consonants by the digraph which also represents one consonant. The words in which such confusion might arise are, however, few, and there are special points which justify the apparent blemish of the representation of two different sounds by one pair of letters.

(1) It is possible, for those who wish to do so, to make the distinction by introducing a hyphen when the *n* and *g* are separate, since the difficulty arises only in words where a prefix ending in *n* precedes a *g* and where a hyphen would naturally be acceptable: e.g. a hyphen in *en-gaej* will make it clear that the *n* and the *g* have their separate, and not their digraphic values. This distinction would be particularly desirable in books for those for whom English is a foreign language to be learnt from the printed page: for the

average Englishman who learns his language through the mouth and ear there can in practice be no confusion.

(2) Many such words, e.g. *engage*, *ingredient*, *ingrained*, *congratulate*, as well as such words as *congress*, *congregation*, have in the speech of many Englishmen the value *ngg* rather than *n + g*. Those who use these pronunciations may indicate them by writing *ngg* instead of the conventional *ng* or the above-mentioned *n-g*.

APPENDIX II

WORD-SIGNS

The idea of adopting “word-signs” to denote certain of the very common English words is one that deserves serious consideration. Several convenient word-signs can be made by shortening New Spelling forms, and as already stated on p. 48 we propose to adopt the following: *I, U, me, he, she, we, be, dhe, a* (shortened from *Ie, Ue, mee*, etc.), and *to* (shortened from *too*). Further, on account of the variability of the pronunciation of *were* (pronounced *wur* by some and *waer* by others) we propose a special word-sign *wer* for this word. It will be seen that eight of the above eleven word-signs are identical with the forms at present in use. One result of their adoption in New Spelling will be to lessen considerably the alteration in the appearance of the printed page. According to the calculations of Dr. Godfrey Dewey,¹ the above eight words constitute on the average approximately 8-9 per cent of continuous English.

If it is held that the advantage of lessening the alterations in the appearance of the printed page outweighs the disadvantage of inconsistencies in the spelling system, the retention of the existing spelling of several other common words might be considered. Such are *the, that, with, without, this, they, their, there, them, than, these, then, those*. Dewey’s estimate of the occurrence of these words is over 11 per cent. Similarly certain other existing spellings might be treated as word-signs, thereby reducing the number of shocks received by those brought up on present spelling when introduced to New Spelling. It has been estimated that if the present spellings of forty-two common words² were accepted as word-signs, these

¹*Relativ Frequency of English Speech Sounds* (Harvard University Press, 1923).

²*The, of, that, is, was, you, as, with, have, by, this, are, his, they, all, will, has, one, my, there, no, their, were, so, your, can, would, them, what, who, do, her, time, war, any, more, now, other, than, say, once, people.*

words together with those not requiring change in New Spelling would constitute over 60 per cent of running matter.

Some hold that it would be advantageous to invent a few additional word-signs designed to diminish the number of homonyms in the language. Forms that have been suggested are *twu* or *tuw* (for O.S. *two*), *riecht* (for O.S. *right*), *ouhr* (for O.S. *hour*), *sun* (for O.S. *sun*). The idea of introducing a limited number of such unphonetic forms is one which should not be summarily dismissed.

APPENDIX III
THE SPELLING OF THE VOWELS
IN *NEW, FOOD, GOOD*

To find an entirely satisfactory way of writing the vowels of such words as *new, food, good* without the introduction of any new letter seems an impossibility. The solution proposed in this book (*ue, uu, oo*) has the following considerations to recommend it. *E* is used in *ue* as a kind of length-mark, as it is likewise in *ae, ee, ie, oe*. Moreover by adopting *ue* we have the easily remembered rule that *ae, ee, ie, oe, ue*, stand for the names of the five vowel letters A, E, I, O, U.

The adoption of *uu* for the vowel in *food* has the advantage that it can be reduced to *u* before another vowel, as in *bluish, truant, duing*; a similar simplification could not be made if *oo* were chosen for this sound. If *ue* and *uu* are chosen for the above-mentioned sounds, *oo* is clearly the appropriate symbol to represent the vowel in *good*.¹

According to Dewey's statistics of frequency in connected texts the following is the order of commonness of the existing modes of representing the *ew*-sound: *you* (including *your*) (1091 occurrences in 100,000 words), *u* + consonant + *e* (274), *ew* (160), *u* alone (140), *ue* (121), *iew* (37). The spelling *eu* does not occur at all in the 1000 commonest English words; it occurs in the relatively rare words *neutral, neuter, feud* and the words beginning with *eu-* and *pseudo-*. *You* is obviously unsuitable for New Spelling, as also is *a* + consonant + *e*. *Ew* can hardly be considered suitable for our purpose on account of the inconsistency that would be involved in the use of *w*. Our choice from the statistical point

¹ Many Scottish speakers make no distinction between the sounds in *food* and *good*. It would be necessary for them either to replace *uu* by *oo* or to memorize the words to be spelt with *uu*.

of view must therefore undoubtedly be *ue*. It may, however, be said in favour of *eu* that it has a certain phonetic appropriateness, since the *e* might be regarded as a reduction of *ee* and the *u* a reduction of *uu*. On the other hand we need *eu* for words like *muezeum*, *lieseum*, *mausoleum*.

The lack of uniformity in the existing spellings of the *ue*, *uu* and *oo* sounds show that the problem of their representation is no new one, and it is evident that the words under consideration are cases where frequency of occurrence in present spelling cannot conveniently be taken as a deciding factor. Thus, as has already been mentioned, *ew* though a common spelling cannot well be adopted in a system of the kind contemplated in these Proposals. On the other hand the long *oo*-sound is at present represented by so many spellings, most of them unsatisfactory, that we feel obliged to recommend for it the digraph *uu*, despite the fact that it cannot be supported on statistical grounds at all.

It has been suggested that the difficulty of the *ew*-sound might be solved by a spelling such as *yuu*, or a simplified form of this, *yu*, which gives a correct phonetic indication of the sound, although having no statistical support in present spelling. *Yu* was in fact tested by the Society for some years.¹ On the whole it works well; exceptions have, however, to be made of the words *yung* (Old Spelling *young*) and its compounds and *yuka* (Old Spelling *yucca*), where the *u* is given its ordinary short value, and *yurn* (Old Spelling *yearn*), where the *ur* has the same value as in *burn*.

All things considered, there seems to be not much to choose between *yu*, *ue*, and *eu* as representations of the *ew*-sound.

¹ It was recommended in the third edition of these Proposals (November, 1911) and was regularly used in *The Pioneer* and other publications of the Society until April, 1915. From June, 1915, to September, 1917, *eu* was tried as an experiment (see Introductory Note to *The Pioneer*, June, 1915).

APPENDIX IV

I FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER VOWEL

The treatment of *i* when followed by another vowel presents considerable difficulties. In present spelling *ie* is sometimes a digraph denoting long *i* (as in *tie*) and sometimes the two letters are pronounced separately (*i* having its long sound in *quiet*, *quiescent*, *flier*, and its short sound, or sometimes *y*, in *convenient*, *acquiesce*, *happier*). Sometimes, too, the *i* of *ie* is not sounded at all, e.g. *patience*. When *i* precedes *a*, *v* or *u*, four pronunciations are found—

(a) long *i*, as in *dial*, *diameter*, *sciatica*, *lion*, *biology*, *diurnal*,

(b) short *i*, as in *fiasco*, *kiosk*, *tiara*, *familiarity*, *pronunciation*, *industrious*, *curious*, *curiosity*, *obvious*, *aquarium*,

(c) the *y*-sound, often with short *i* as an alternative, as in *brilliant*, *subsidiary*, *million*, *senior*, *genius*,

(d) *i* unpronounced, as in *commercial*, *station*, *precious*.

The last of these cases concerns unstressed positions in which the preceding consonant sound is *sh*, *zh*, *ch*, or *j*, and in words of this type the *i* must clearly be dropped in New Spelling. Examples in New Spelling are *akaesha*, *komurshal*, *optishan*, *jenshan* (O.S. *gentian*), *aleejans*, *plenipotenshary*, *staeshon*, *vizhon*, *sujeschon*, *relijon*, *preshus*, *kontaejus*.

Our proposal for other cases is that *i* be used when the vowel is long but *y* when it is short as also of course wherever the consonantal *y*-sound is heard. Thus we recommend the following spellings: *dial*, *diameter*, *siatika*, *lion*, *biolojy*, *diurnal*, *kwiët*, *kwiësent*, *tiing* (O.S. *tying*), *fyaskoe*, *kyosk*, *tyara*, *familyarrity*, *pronunsiy-aeshon*, *ondustryus*, *kueryus*, *kueryosity*, *obvyus*, *akwaeryum*, *akwyes*

7A-(C-64)

(O.S. *acquiesce*), *hapyer*, *hapyest*, *brilyant*, *subsidyary*, *konveenyent*, *milyon*, *seenyor*, *jeenyus*. Some words now written with *e* would likewise be written with *y*; such are *aerya* (O.S. *area*), *linyal*, *subteraenyan*, *miskryant*, *galyon*, *hidyus*, *petroelyum*, *meetyorrik*, *jeenyalojy*, *fraezyolojy*.

Since many words thus written with *y* are derivatives of words ending in an unstressed short *i*-sound, it is convenient to retain the existing practice of using *y* to denote this final sound. Thus we propose to write *vaery* (not *vaeri*), *vaeryus*, *vaeryans*, *vaeryant*, *vaeryabl*, *vaeryability*, *vaeryaeshon*, *hapy* (not *hapi*), *hapyer*, *hapyest*, *empty* (not *empti*), *emptying*; and for the sake of consistency we propose also to write *-y* in the numerous words which have no such derivatives such as *lily*, *kloesly*, *shuurly*, *fifty*, *orratory*, *braevely*, *fotografy*, *apathy*, *infansy*, *ekspeedyensy*.

There are two drawbacks to this system. One is that *y* is used in two senses; it has a consonantal value in *yes*, *yard*, etc., and a vowel value in many of the cases mentioned above. The other is that the vocalic *y* has to be replaced by *i* in derivatives of words in *-y* whenever a consonant follows, e.g. *vaery*, but *vaeriz*, *vaerid*, *hapy* but *hapines*, *body* but *bodiz*, *bodily*, *eny* but *eniwun*. Any attempt to retain *y* in such derivatives would lead to endless complications.¹ Neither of these disadvantages is in our opinion serious. We consider the drawbacks inherent in all the other possible systems of dealing with *i* + vowel to be much more formidable (see below).

We came to the above conclusions regarding the use of *y* after a full investigation of other possible systems of dealing with short *i* + vowel. For the information of our readers these other systems are set out below, together with our reasons for rejecting them.

(1) A system which seemed at first sight full of promise was to place a diæresis on the *i* whenever it had the short value (or the *y*-sound) before another vowel, thus *fiaskoe*, *familiarity*, *pronunsiae-*

¹ Thus if *vaerid* were written *vaeryd*, consistency would require that *timid* should be written *timyd*. The logical outcome of such a policy would be to adopt *y* as the normal way of writing short *i* in all unstressed syllables. Such a system is defensible, but it involves variations of spelling such as *timyd*, *tymidyty*, *ynkwizytyv*, *inkuyzishon*.

shon, milion, konveenfent, hapfer, happyest, etc. The system would, it is true, be unambiguous, but it would involve using the diæresis in an immense number of words, and we feel that the diæresis is not a good sign, and that it should be used as sparingly as possible. For typographical reasons an *i* with diæresis is particularly objectionable. Moreover most ordinary printers do not possess *ī* and could not be expected to procure it. If *ī* were approved in principle, it is certain that ordinary *i* would be substituted in practice.

(2) Another system would be to leave *i* as in present spelling, writing simply *fiaskoe, familiarrrity, pronunsiashon, milion, konveenient, hapier, hapiest, etc.* This plan would have the disadvantage that *i* would have two quite different pronunciations when followed by *a, o* and *u* in New Spelling: long *i* in *diameter, kwiësent, biolojy, diurnal*, but short *i* or *y* in *fiaskoe, akwiës, kueriosity, akwaerium, briliant, milion, jeenius*. These could be partly covered by a rule, but there would be exceptions. In the case of *ie* there would be the further drawback due to the ordinary New Spelling value of this digraph. Our vowel system requires that *ie* denote long *i* (as in *tie*). It would therefore be very undesirable to give it an entirely different value in such words as *konveenient, audiens*. Moreover the terminations *-iel, -ien, -ier* would be ambiguous; they would have the normal New Spelling values in *rekonsiel, tekstiel, alpien, porkuepien, safier* (O.S. *sapphire*), *empier*, but quite different values in *spaniel, aelien, premier, hapier*.

(3) Another possible system would be to use *e* instead of *i* in the cases under consideration: *feaskoe, familearrity, pronunseaeshon, mileon, etc.* This would be unambiguous when the following vowel is *a, i, o* or *u*, and it would be in line with the present spelling of some words (*area, genealogy*, for instance). It would not, however, work well when the following letter is *e*. Either the *ie* would have to be changed to *ea* (this would be feasible in some words, e.g. *convenient, audience, spaniel*) or a diæresis would have to be used; this latter would be unavoidable in the common terminations *-ier, -iest*, and would give forms like *premeër, hapeër, hapeëst*, which would be unsuitable for many reasons.

(4.) Yet another plan, which has in fact been experimented with by the Simplified Spelling Society, is to reserve the letter *i* for the

short vowel sound and to adopt *y* as the regular symbol for the long sound *ie*. We have come to the conclusion, however, that to use *y* in two such very different senses as the vowel in *tie* and the initial consonant of *yet* would constitute a serious defect in a system of reformed spelling.

APPENDIX V

USE OF THE DIÆRESIS

We recommend that the use of the diæresis be confined to cases where a sequence of vowel letters without a diæresis would have another value. Examples are *gaëst* (gayest), *plaër* (player), *paäbl* (payable), *freëst*, *kwiët* (quiet), *poëm*, *truër*, *zoölojy*, *koürs* (coerce), *egoist*, *inkongruüs*. Sequences of vowel letters to which no special meaning is assigned never require a diæresis, e.g. *paing* (paying), *seing* (seeing), *triing*, *bluish*, *kaos*, *neon*, *lion*, *fiuoresent*, *real*, *theater*, *liabl*, *pius* (pious), *pervaor* (purveyor), *truant*.

Those who use a disyllabic pronunciation in such words as *higher*, *flyer*, may indicate this by using the diæresis: *hiër*, *fliër*. But this marking would not be essential, since many speakers pronounce these words as monosyllables (*higher* being identical with *hire*, and therefore adequately represented by *hier*). Similarly the diæresis in *freër* may be omitted on the ground that many pronounce the word to rhyme with *beer*.

In some cases the diæresis may be omitted on the ground that the letters could not occur in the particular position with the special value of the digraph. Thus no ambiguity would arise from writing *truer* and *going* without a diæresis, since the ordinary value of *ue* does not occur after *tr* and the ordinary value of *oi* does not occur before *ng*.

In numerous other cases the diæresis might be made optional on the ground that there is no possibility of confusion with any other word. Thus users of New Spelling would no doubt generally omit the diæresis in such a word as *egoist*.

In some cases a hyphen might be used as a preferable alternative to the diæresis, e.g. *ko-urs*, *re-enter* instead of *koürs*, *reënter*. Some favour extending this plan so as to make the diæresis entirely unnecessary (see Appendix X).

APPENDIX VI

CONTRACTIONS, APOSTROPHE

Contracted forms of groups of two or more words can be made in New Spelling in much the same way as in present spelling. Examples: *kaan't*, *doen't*, *o'klok*, *kat's-pau*, *wil-o'-dhe-wisp*, *I'l*, *U'l*, *he'l*, *I'v*, *she'z* (= she is, she has), *we'd* (= we had, we would), *it's* (= it is, it has), *U'r* (you're), *dhae'r*.

It has been suggested that in many such cases the apostrophe is superfluous. We have come to the conclusion, however, that for the present it is better to adhere to the best printing-house practice in this matter.

We recommend also retaining the apostrophe in the possessive termination, distinguishing for instance *boiz*, *boi'z* and *boiz'*, *dueks*, *duek's* and *dueks'*, *horsez*, *hors'ez* and *horsez'*, *churchez*, *church'ez* and *churchez'*. It will be noted that (apart from some of the word-signs) this is the only case in New Spelling where visual distinctions are made which do not correspond to any distinction in pronunciation.

Some common contractions retain their present forms in New Spelling. Such are *Mr.*, *Ltd.*, *St.* (street and Saint), *i.e.*, *e.g.* Others need alteration. Such are *Msz.* (Mrs.), *Mesrz.* (Messrs.), *Bruz.* (Bros.), *Nr.* (No.), *Nrz.* (Nos.), *Ky* or *Koe* (Co.), *vt.* (viz.), *pp.* (pp.), *ets.* (*etc.*), *os.* (oz.), *pd.* (lb.), plurals of letter names such as *a'z*, *b'z*, *gz*, *h'ez*, *s'ez* (*f's* would remain as at present).

APPENDIX VII

WORDS SPELT WITH *OR*

(a) *Or* + consonant

The representation of words at present written with *or* + consonant is complicated by the fact that in many parts of Great Britain two separate vowel sounds are represented by it: a “close” *o* is used in some words (e.g. *port, afford*), while an “open” *o* is used in other words (e.g. *sort, cord, fork*). Those who make this distinction also use close *o* in words now written with oar, *our* (e.g. *board, course*).¹

Whatever spelling is selected for these words will therefore cause inconvenience to some speakers. Either (1) distinctions made by some will have to be ignored, or (2) other speakers will have to memorize spellings showing distinctions they do not make.

All things considered, we incline to the view that the normal way of writing all such words should be with *or*. However, as has been shown by P. MacCarthy in the Foreword to the Society’s version of *Hamlet*, it is advisable to admit *oer* as a possible alternative in the words pronounceable with “close” *o*. These words are marked with an asterisk in the Society’s *Dictionary of New Spelling*.

The following are the chief words at present written with *or* + consonant which many speakers pronounce with close *o* but which according to the first system would be written like the

¹ The distribution of the close and open *o*-sounds is not quite the same in all districts. The most usual is that shown in various dictionaries (e.g. the *Oxford English Dictionary*, Cassell’s *French and English Dictionary*, Chambers’s *Dictionary*, Funk and Wagnall’s *Standard Dictionary*) and in Grant and Robson’s *Phonetics for Scottish Students* (Cambridge University Press), pp. 100, 101. The principal dictionaries indicating the pronunciation of those who do not make this distinction are Wyld’s *Universal English Dictionary* and D. Jones’s *English Pronouncing Dictionary*.

words with open *o* listed in the next paragraph: *ford*, *aford*, *hord* (O.S. *hoard*, *horde*), *sord* (O.S. *sword*), *fort*, *port* (*import*, *report*, etc.), *sport*, *forth* (O.S. *forth*, *fourth*), *divors*, *fors*, *born* (O.S. *borne*), *sworn*, *torn*, *worn* (O.S. *worn*), *forj*, *pork*.

The chief words now written with *or* + consonant which are always said with an open *o* are: *kord* (*rekord*, etc.), *lord*, *order*, *border*, *form* (*inform*, etc.), *storm*, *adorn*, *born* (O.S. *born*), *korn*, *horn*, *morning* (O.S. *morning*), *skorn*, *shorn*, *kork*, *fork*, *stork*, *York*, *sort*, (*rezort*, etc.), *short*, *snort*, *north*, *gorj*, *hors* (O.S. *horse*), *korps*, *remors*, *forty*, *fortifie*, *fortifikaeshon*. The same sound occurs in *worn* (O.S. *warn*), *kworts* (O.S. *quartz*, *quarts*), etc.

The alternative system would show a difference of pronunciation which many speakers consider to be important. It would also distinguish certain pairs of words which in the first system are homonyms: *boerder*, *hoers*, *moern*, *boern*, *woern* (O.S. *boarder*, *hoarse*, *mourn*, *borne*, *worn*) would be distinguished from *border*, *hors*, *morn*, *born*, *worn* (O.S. *horse*, *morn*, *born*, *warn*).

(b) Final stressed -or, -oar, -ore

Final stressed *-or* (as in *nor*, *tor*, *abhor*) is always pronounced with open *o*. So also is *war*. But final stressed *-oar*, *-our*, *-ore*, *-oor* (as in *boar*, *four*, *more*, *door*) have variable pronunciation; a great many speakers say these words with open *o*, but others use close *o* in them. We recommend that these words be normally written with *or*. Thus we propose to write not only *for*, *nor*, *or*, *for*, *wor* (for O.S. *for*, *nor*, *or*, *tor*, *war*), but also *ador*, *befor*, *bor* (O.S. *boar*, *bore*), *dor*, *eksplor*, *flor*, *for* (O.S. *fore*, *four*), *ignor*, *lor* (O.S. *lore*), *mor*, *nor* (O.S. *nore*), *or* (O.S. *oar*, *ore*), *por* (O.S. *pore*, *pour*), *restor*, *ror*, *shor*, *skor*, *sgr* (O.S. *soar*, *sore*), *store*, *swor*, *tor* (O.S. *tore*), *wor* (O.S. *wore*).

Words of the latter class might be written with *-oer*, and if this were done, *foer* (O.S. *four*, *fore*), *noer* (O.S. *nore*), *or* (O.S. *oar*, *ore*), *toer* (O.S. *tore*), *woer* (O.S. *wore*), would be distinguished in spelling from *for*, *nor*, *or*, *tor*, *wor* (O.S. *war*). Not only does this mode of spelling conform to the pronunciation of many, but it presents the advantage of not increasing the already large number of homographs in the language.

¹ See the dictionaries mentioned in footnote on previous page

We think it reasonable therefore that the spelling of these words with *oer* should be admitted as a possible variant.

(c) Long and short *o* + *r* + vowel

These words are illustrated by the words *story* and *sorry*. Words of the *story* type are pronounced by some with a long open *o* and by others with a long close *o*.¹ Words of the *sorry* type are always pronounced with a short open *o*.

After exhaustive investigation of the words affected we have come to the conclusion that normally the existing principle of spelling such words can well be followed in New Spelling, i.e. that a single *r* should be used after long *o* and double *r* after short *o*. The New Spelling forms of *story* and *sorry* will thus be identical with their present forms.

The following are examples of the proposed new spellings. (i) Long *o*, indicated by single *r*: *adoring*, *adorable*, *eksplorér*, *abhorring*, *historyan*, *hory* (O.S. *hoary*), *viktoryus*, *tuetoryal*, *kworum*, *korus* (O.S. *chorus*), *oral* (O.S. *oral*), *sanatoryum*, *boraks*. (ii) Short *o*, indicated by *rr*: *horrid*, *sorroé*, *porrij*, *kworrel*, *abhorrent*, *korridor*, and in words like the following which at present have only one *r*, *korral* (O.S. *coral*), *morral*, *forrest*, *histerrik*, *morribund*. There is no need to write double *r* when the syllable is unstressed; *correct*, *corrupt*, etc., are represented unambiguously by the spellings *korekt*, *korupt* (like *moroés*, *oraeshon*).

The proposed system involves making *r* an exception to the general rule that single consonant sounds are represented by single letters. It follows that for consistency the same use of *r* has to be made in two other cases, namely after *a* and *u*: a single *r* must be used when these letters denote long vowels and double *r* when they denote short vowels. Thus O.S. *starry*, *tarry* (covered with tar), *erring*, *stirring*, *purring* will be written in N.S. *stary*, *tary*, *uring*, *sturing*, *puring*, but *carry* will be written *karry* and *hurry* will retain its present form. Double *r* will be retained also in such words as *marrej*, *embarrass*, *arroé*, *barraazh*, *wurry*, *kurrent*, *hurriken*, *burroé* (O.S. *burrow*), and *rr* will have to be substituted for *r* in words like *harras* (O.S. *harass*), *harbarrik*,

¹ See the dictionaries mentioned in footnote on p. 111

karrikatuer, komparrison, popuelarrity, parragraaf, parralel, kurrej, (OS. courage), burro (O.S. borough).

There is no necessity to double *r* after short *e* or *i*: *very, mery, hering, eratik, spirit, lirik, skwirel, iritaet* are adequate spellings. So also a single *r* suffices in unstressed positions, as in *military, vikarej, around, ariez, ariev, araenj, serender, kurikuelunz, kuraejus*.

An unambiguous spelling would also be arrived at by a reverse process, viz. using single *r* after short *a, o, u* and double *r* after the long values of these letters. This plan has much to commend it. For the numerous speakers who do not sound final *r*, *adorring, eksplorrer*, would be consistent spellings for derivatives of *ador, eksplor*, and would not involve any departure from the principle that single consonant sounds are represented by single letters. Against this advantage must be set the facts (1) that for Northerners and others who do sound final *r* this convention as to the use of *r* and *rr* might be found not entirely convenient, and (2) the system would in most cases be a reversal of present usage (*story, historian, chorus, oral*, for instance would have to be written *storry, historryan, horrus, orral*, while *sorry, corridor, moral* would be written *sory, koridor, moral*). After considering a large number of words, we have formed the opinion that the balance of advantage is on the side of the previous system.

It would also be possible to write *oer* when the vowel is long thus *stoery, adoering, histoeryan*, etc. This spelling would conform to the pronunciation of the numerous speakers who use close *o* in words of this, type. For reasons similar to those adduced in § (a) we feel it to be advisable to admit this spelling as a possible variant in such words.

APPENDIX VIII

PLACE NAMES IN NEW SPELLING

The following lists show alterations that would be required if geographical names were to be written in New Spelling. (The names marked * would have an alternative spelling with *oer* for *or*.)

1. Continents, Countries, Rivers, etc.—

(a) *Unaltered*: Alaska, Brazil, Burma, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Jutland, Kenya (or Keenya), Natal, Nepaul, Nyasaland, Sahara, Siam, Tibet, Trinidad.

(b) *Altered*: Aesha, Afganistan, Afrika, Albaenya, Aljeerya, Amerika, Araebya, Arjentien (or Arjenteen), Armeenya, Asam, Austraelya, Baluuchistaan, Beljum, Bengaul, Bermueda, Bolivya, Bornyoe, Britan, Bulgaerya, Chekoe-Slovaakya, Chiena, Danueb, Eejipt, Ekwador, Estoenya, Fraans or Frans, Gambia, Gyaana, Goeld Koest, Grees, Himalaaz, Holand, Hungary, Iesland, Indya, Inghland (or Inghland), Iraak, Iraan, Jaava, Jamaeka, Jurmany, Kalifornya, Kanada, Kashmeer, Kolombya, Kolumbya, Kreet, Kueba, Latvya, Lithueaenya, Luksemburg, Madagaskar, Malaä, Maulta, Meksikoe, Miesor*, Mongoelya, Morokoe, Niejeerya, Niel, Norwae, Nue Zeeland, Ooroogwie, PaakistAan, Palestien, Panamaa, , Parragwic, Peruu, Poeland, Portuegal, Punjaab, Pursha, Rien, Roedeezya, Roen, Rusha, Ruumaenya, Sardinya, Selon, Senegaul, Siebeerya, Sieprus, Syera Lyoen, Sirya, Sisily, Skotland, Somaaliland, Soodan, Spaen, Sweeden, Switserland, Tazmaenya, Tailand, Travankor*, Tuenis, Tuenizya, Turkey, Uego-slaavya, Ueganda, Uenieted Staets, Uerop, Waelz.

2. Towns and Counties in the British Commonwealth and U.S.A.—

(a) *Unaltered*: Aberdeen, Bedford, Boston, Bradford, Bristol,

Chelmsford, Chester, Chichester, Darlington, Devon, Devonport*, Dorchester, Dorking, Dorset, Dublin, Dundee, Hereford, Huntingdon, Ipswich, Kent, Kingston, Manchester, Northampton, Northumberland, Preston, Richmond, Ripon, Rochester, Rugby, Southampton, Southend, Stratford, Sunderland, Westmorland, Wigan, Winchester, York.

(b) *Altered*: Adelaed, Aelzbury, Aukland, Auldershot, Baath, Barkshir, Belfaast, Boelton, Bombae, Bornmuth*, Brieton, Brizbaen,, Bukingam, Bukston, Burkenhed, Burmingam, Chatam, Cheltenham, Cheshir, Darby, Dely, Doever, Donkaster, Durram, Edinboro, Eeling, Eestborn*, Ekseter, Eseks, Filadelfya, Foekston, Glaasgoe, Gloster, Grimzby, Haestingz, Halifaks, Hampshir, Harford, Harrij, Hichin, Holiwood, Huderzfeeld, Hul, Iel ov Wiet, Ilfrakuum, Invernes, Kaembrij, Kalkuta, Kamberly, Kanterbury, Kardif, Karliel, Kimberly, Kolumboe, Kornwaul, Koventry, Kroemer, Kroidon, Kumberland, Kwebek, Lankaster, Leedz, Lemington, Lester, Linkon, Liverpool, Lufboro, Lndon, Luuton, Madraas, Maedston, Maklzfeeld, Marget, Melborn*, Midlzbrow, Monmuth (or Munmuth), Montreaul, Noeva, Skoesha, Norfok, Norrij, Notingam, Nuefoundland, Nuehaeven, Nuekaasl, Nueport*, Nue York, Oeldam, Oksford, Ottawa, Peeterboro, Penzans, Plimuth, Portsmuth*, Purth, Ramsget, Reding, San Fransiskoe, Saulford, Saulzbury, Seatl, Shefeeld, Shikaagoe, Shroezbury (or Shruuzbury), Sidney, Skarboro, Staford, Stokport*, Sufok, Somerset, Surry, Suseks, Torkee, Torontoe, Truuroe, Tunbrij, Vankuuver, Waekfeeld, Waemuth, Waulsaul, Waulzend, Welington, Wiltshir, Wimblon, Winipeg, Woolverhampton, Wooster, Worrik, Worrington, Woshington, Yarmuth.

3. Foreign Towns with anglicized form:

(a) *Unaltered*: Amsterdam, Bagdad, Berlin, Flushing, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Madrid, Milan.

(b) *Altered*. Aljeerz, Athenz, Barselocna, Belgraed, Brunzvik, Bruselz,, Buekarest, Florrens, Gent, Jeneeva, Jeruusalem, Kaediz,, Kartajeena, Koepenhaegen, Koloen, Kieroe, Lizbon, Marsaelz, Moskoe, Muenik, Parris, Osloe, Roem, Rotterdam, Stokhoem, Toekyoe, Valenshya, Venis, Vyena, Worsau.

4: London Streets, Suburbs, etc—

(a) *Unaltered*. Barking, Bedford, Bond, Brentford, Brompton, Camden, Campden, Embankment, Dorset, Farringdon, Fenchurch, Fleet, Gordon, Hanover, Hendon, Kensal, Kentish, Ken Wood, Kilburn, Lambeth, Paternoster, Portland*, Portman*, Praed, Strand, Stratford, Torrington, Trafalgar, Westminster (Avenue, Park, Street.)

(b) *Altered*: Adison, Arkriet, Auldgaet, Auldwich, Baeker, Baezwauter, Bekenam, Blakfrierz, Batersy, Belgraev, Bilingzgaet, Bishopsgaet, Bluumzbury, Boe, Brikston, Brondzbury, Bukingam, Burmondzy, Chaansery, Chaeny, Charring, Chizik, Devonshir, Druury, Duek, Eeton, Ejwaer, Finchly, Finzbury, Fitsjon, Gloster, Gour, Graez In, Grinij, Groevenor, Haemarket, Hamersmith, Harnpsted, Harly, Harroe, Hied, Hieget, Hoeborn, Holowae, Hornzy, Horsfery, Hurn Hil, Izlington, Kadugan, Kaledoenyan, Kavendish, Kenzington, Klapam, Klaption, Kolvil, Kovent, Kraeven, Kue, Lancaster, Ludget, Maeda Vael, Marrileboen, Monuement, Morlboro, Muzwel, Nietsbrij, Noting, Nueget, Padington, Pankras, Pikadily, Primroez, Putny, Reejent, Rodherhiedh, Rusel, Shaafisbury, Sheperd'z Boosh, Sloen, Sohoe, St. Jaemz'ez, St. Jon'z Wood, St. Jorj'ez, Stoek Nueington, Sudhark, Tavistok, Temz, Theobauld, Totenam, Tour Brij, Ueston, Urlz Kort*, Viktorya*, Vokshaul, Waulwurth, Wauterluu, Welington, Westborn*, Whietchapel, Whiethaul, Wilzden, Woeburn, Woolij. (Brij, Dok, Driev, Gaet, Gardenz, Groev, Hil, Kloes, Korner, Kort*, Kresent, Laen, Muez, Plaes, Roe, Roed, Skwaer, Surkus, Teres, Wae, Wauk.)

5. Derived Nouns and Adjectives-

(a) *Unaltered*: Burman, French, Greek, Spanish, Turkish.

(b) *Altered*: Aeshyatik, Afgan, Afrikan, Amerikan, Arrabik, Australyan, Beljan, Bolivyan, Brazilyan, Bulgaeryan, Burmeez, Chieneez, Chilyan, Daen, Daenish, Devoenyan, Duch, Ejjipshan, Fin, Finish, Ieslandik, Ierish, Indyan, English (or Ingglish), Italyan, Japaneez, Jaavaneez, Jurman, Hunggaeryan, Kan-aedyan, Kreetan, Liverpoolyan, Maulteez, Meksikan, Nielotik,

Norweejan, Palestinyan, Parizyan, Peruuvyan, Poelish, Portue-
geez, Rugbean, Rushan, Ruuniaenyan, Singgaleez (or
Singhaleez), Siryan, Skoch, Skot, Skotish, Spanyol, Surbyan,
Sweedish, Swis, Ueropian, Vyeneez, Veneeshan, Zuuluu.

APPENDIX IX

FURTHER STATISTICAL DATA

Since the fourth edition of this book Dr. Godfrey Dewey completed and published the results of his investigation into the frequency of English words (*The Relative Frequency of English Speech Sounds*, Harvard Studies in Education, 1923). This valuable statistical work has an important bearing on the question of the changes which will be made if practical application is given to the recommendations of this book. In the absence of such published investigation the authors of the book could, under the heading of each speech sound, list the number of words which occur in the various old spellings, but they could not give to those words the value which they have in the terms of frequency in ordinary continuous English. The only case in which statistics of frequency in continuous English were given in the earlier editions of this book was in connexion with *c* and *k*. These statistics are reproduced in the present edition (p. 22). We think it, however, advisable to add fuller statistics in this Appendix.

The 500 commonest words of the language, as listed in Dr. Dewey's book, have an average frequency of 76.6 per cent of ordinary continuous English¹; the remaining 631 words in his list have an average total recurrence of only 10.75 per cent, and the remaining—shall we say—50,000 words an average total recurrence of only 12.6 per cent.

The commonest words thus afford a cross-section of over three-quarters of the English language in continuous form, and possibly they may be presumed to afford a sample from which deductions concerning the remaining 23.4 per cent of the language may be made.

There are thus two aspects from which the results of Dewey's work may be considered helpful—in the first place, to show precisely what is the effect within the 500 commonest words, and, secondly, to indicate from the effect in the 500 commonest words what is the probable effect in the other, say, 50,000.

Table 4—The Recurrence of Words, including Their Simple Derivatives.

The 500 commonest words could be analysed for every consonant and every vowel sound, but it has been thought best to confine this appendix to the vowel sounds only.

500 COMMONEST WORDS

Vowels and Diphthongs. In the case of some of the vowel and diphthong sounds of the English language there will in New Spelling be a continuance of the existing system of representation either in all instances or in the majority of instances, the same signs being used in New Spelling as are used in Old Spelling. All the short vowels, the long vowel *ee*, the device *ar*, and the diphthong *ou*, provide instances of all or the great majority of representations remaining, but there are many changes in some of the others. While at one end of the scale we have the short vowel sound *a*, as in the demonstrative pronoun *that*, which in New Spelling will in all cases be represented by the sign which was used in the Old Spelling, there are at the other extreme the cases of the new signs for the vowel sounds in *pa*, *go* and *rule* in which there is in the commonest words not a single instance where the old spelling will remain.

The results of the investigation into the 500 commonest words may conveniently be set out as follows—

Table of the 500 Commonest Words (Table 4 in Dewey's *Relativ Frequency of English Speech Sounds*) analysed in classification of vowel sounds to show percentages of words where any given vowel sound will in New Spelling be represented by the same letter or letters as in Old Spelling and where it will be represented by a different letter or letters.

Vowel sound	UNCHANGED			Total %	Present Spelling	CHANGED		
	Present Spelling	Word	%			Word	%	Total %
in								
That	<i>a</i>	<i>and</i> <i>that</i>	3.280 1.367			nil	nil	
		Total 58 words ¹		<u>10.848</u>				

¹ The word *capital* provides two instances. The word *carry* is here the only instance of the use of a double *r* in New Spelling.

Vowel sound in	UNCHANGED				CHANGED			
	Present Spelling	Word	%	Total %	Present Spelling	Word	%	Total %
Pen	<i>e</i>	<i>were</i>	.307		<i>a</i>	<i>any</i>	.210	
		<i>them</i>	.262			<i>many</i>	.104	
					Total 3 words			.344
					<i>ea</i>	<i>read</i>	.046	
						<i>head</i>	.038	
						Total 5 words ²		
					<i>ai</i>	<i>said</i>		.161
						<i>frien</i>		.039
						<i>d</i>		
					Total 104 words ¹			6.102
							<u>.716</u>	
Is	<i>i</i>	<i>in</i>	2.116		<i>u</i>	<i>busi</i>		.091
		<i>ness</i>				<i>mon</i>		.060
		<i>it</i>	1.488			<i>ey</i>		
					<i>o</i>	<i>wom</i>		.048
						<i>en</i>		
						<i>build</i>		.046
	<i>y</i>	<i>any</i>	.210		<i>ui</i>	<i>minute</i>		.030
<i>only</i>		.289		<i>te</i>				
					Total 20 words			.945
							<u>10.960</u>	
							<u>.275</u>	
Not	<i>o</i>	<i>of</i>	3.998		<i>a</i>	<i>was</i>	.850	
		<i>on</i>	.643			<i>what</i>	.260	
		Total 44 ³ words				7.655	Total 3 words	
					<i>au</i>	<i>beca</i>		.108
						<i>use</i>		
					<i>ar</i>	<i>war</i>		
		<i>or</i>	<i>for</i>	1.035		<i>ou</i>	<i>four</i>	.041
	<i>or</i>		.458		<i>cour</i>	.038	.079	
						<i>se</i>		
					Total 16 words			2.239
							<u>9.894</u>	
							<u>1.597</u>	

¹ *Every*, *never* and eighteen other words provide two or more instances. The word *perfect* has been treated here as a verb and will also appear as an adjective under *ur*.

² The word *read* has been treated here as a past participle and *lead* as the metal. They will also appear as present indicatives under the long *ee*.

³ The word *condition* and three others give two instances.

Vowel sound in	UNCHANGED				CHANGED				
	Present Spelling	Word	%	Total %	Present Spelling	Word	%	Total %	
May	<i>ae</i>	<i>a</i> ¹	2.120		<i>a + e</i>	<i>made</i>	.170		
						<i>make</i>	.166		
						Total 17 words	1.281		
						<i>ay</i>	<i>say</i>		.191
							<i>day</i>		.175
						Total 10 words	.987		
						<i>ey</i>	<i>they</i>		.495
							<i>e + e</i>		<i>there</i>
						<i>ei</i>	<i>where</i>		.083
							<i>their</i>		.319
						<i>a</i>	<i>nation</i>		.059
							<i>labour</i>		.052
							Total 6 words		.249
						<i>ai</i>	<i>against</i>		.073
							<i>again</i>		.062
						Total 4 words	.241		
						<i>ea</i>	<i>great</i>		.178
<i>bear</i>	.027								
			<u>2.120</u>				<u>4.189</u>		
We	<i>ee</i>	<i>the</i> <i>be</i>	7.310 .956		<i>ea</i>	<i>year</i>	.152		
						<i>mean</i>	.072		
						Total 18 words ³	.883		
						<i>e + e</i>	<i>these</i>		.152
							<i>here</i>		.110
						Total 4 words			
						<i>e</i>	<i>even</i>		
							<i>ie</i>		<i>believe</i>
						<i>i</i>	<i>field</i>		.030
							<i>machine</i>		.030
Total 21 words ²			<u>11.097</u>				<u>1.427</u>		

¹ The word *a* from which the final *e* will be omitted is here treated as an instance where no change will take place.

² The words *the*, *be*, and four others from which the final *e* will be omitted have been treated as unchanged. The word *be* in its derivative *being* and the word *real* are similarly treated as unchanged.

³ The words *read* and *lead* have here been included as present indicatives.

Vowel sound in	UNCHANGED			Total %	Present Spellin g	CHANGED			Total %
	Present Spelling	Word	%			Word	%		
	Brought forward			nil					.680
					<i>wo</i>	<i>two</i>			.146
					<i>ough</i>	<i>through</i>			.094
					<i>o + e</i>	<i>move</i>	.044		.086
						<i>whose</i>	.042		.060
					<i>ue</i>	<i>true</i>			.033
					<i>u + e</i>	<i>sure</i>			
				nil					<u>1.099</u>
I	<i>i</i>	<i>I</i> ¹ <i>supply</i> ¹	1.236 .045		<i>i + e</i>	<i>time</i> <i>like</i>	.232 .129		
						Total 15 words			.997
					<i>y</i>	<i>by</i> <i>my</i>	.600 .329		
						Total 3 words			.980
					<i>igh</i>	<i>night</i> <i>might</i>	.110 .084		
						Total 5 words			.209
					<i>eye</i>	<i>eye</i>	.054		
					<i>uy</i>	<i>buy</i>	.036		
					<i>ei</i>	<i>either</i>	.036		
		Total 2 words		<u>1.281¹</u>					<u>2.698</u>
Now	<i>ou</i>	<i>our</i> <i>out</i>	.357 .206		<i>ow</i>	<i>now</i> <i>how</i>	.210 .146		
		Total 13 words		<u>1.186</u>		Total 4 words			.522
Enjoy	<i>oi</i>				<i>oy</i>	<i>boy</i> <i>destroy</i>	.043 .034		
		<i>point</i>		<u>.048</u>		Total 3 words			<u>.107</u>

¹ *I* from which the final *e* will be omitted and *supply* of which the plural and third person derivatives will be unchanged have been treated as unchanged.

NEW SPELLING

Vowel sound in	UNCHANGED				Present Spelling	CHANGED			
	Present Spelling	Word	%	Total %		Word	%	Total %	
Music	<i>ue</i>	<i>continue</i>	.049		<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>	.808	1.091	
		<i>value</i>	.038		<i>u + e</i>	<i>your</i>	.283		
						<i>use</i>	.100		
						<i>secure</i>	.031		
						Total 7 words		.274	
					<i>ew</i>	<i>new</i>	.104		
						<i>few</i>	.056		
					<i>u</i>	<i>during</i>	.041		
						<i>situation</i>	.041		
						Total 4 words		.140	
					<i>iew</i>	<i>view</i>	.037		
	Total 3 words		<u>.121</u>				<u>1.702</u>		

SUMMARY OF VOWEL PERCENTAGES

Vowel Sound in	UNCHANGED		CHANGED	
	Words	% ¹	Words	% ¹
That	58	10.848	—	—
Pen	104	6.102	10	.716
Is	67	10.015	5	.275
Not	<i>y</i>	.945)	1.301
	<i>o</i>	44	4	.296
	<i>or</i>	16	3	11.904
Much	<i>u</i>	23	23	2.821
	<i>ur</i>	4	13	2.921
Good	7	3.456	5	.659
Pa	<i>a</i>	—	9	.516
	<i>ar</i>	13	1	.549
May	1	2.120	43	4.189
We	21	11.097	26	1.427
All	2	.084	10	1.089
Go	—	—	33	2.700
Too	—	—	12	1.099
I	2	1.281	31	2.698
Now	13	1.186	4	.522
Enjoy	1	.048	3	.107
Music	3	.121	16	1.702
	399	60.169	251	34.570

It will be noticed that 399/650 of the vowel occurrences² remain unchanged and that their frequency is relatively greater, so that 609/948 of the vowel occurrences per page of continuous English remain unchanged. Put in other words: the vowel sounds of two syllables out of three in the occurrence of the commonest words in continuous English are now spelt by the letters which it is proposed shall represent them in New Spelling.

¹ The total words would be 500 and the total percentage 100 only if all the words in the list Of 500 commonest words were monosyllables. Since many are words of more than one syllable, many words have come up for consideration several times over.

² These totals are nearly exact. Adjustments would be made if possible to differentiate ambiguous words like *read*, *perfect*, etc., and could be made for words like *capital* in which there are more than one syllable as an example.

APPENDIX X

THE SYSTEM OF THE S.S.A.

Early in 1947 a new system of reformed spelling was put forward by the Simpler Spelling Association of America (Lake Placid Club, New York, U.S.A.). Working independently, the members of that Association evolved a scheme almost identical with our New Spelling—a clear indication that both organizations have been working on sound lines.

The following are the details in which the S.S.A. system differs from that of our Society.

(1) In the S.S.A. system the long vowel digraphs are not reduced before another vowel. Examples: *dieal*, *kaeos*, *agreeabl*, *lieon*, *egoist* (N.S. *dial*, *kaos*, *agreeabl*, *lion*, *egoist*).

(2) The S.S.A. system does not employ the diæresis, but inserts a hyphen when necessary to avoid ambiguity. Examples: *gae-eti*, *ree-elekt*, *kwie-et*, *loe-er*, *influu-ens* (N.S. *gaëty*, *reëlekt*, *kwiët*, *loër*, *influëns*)

(3) In the S.S.A. system *oo* is used to denote the long *oo*-sound and *uu* to denote the short *oo*-sound—the reverse of our N.S. usage.

(4) In the S.S.A. system *u* (without following *e*) always designates the short *i*-sound. *Y* is not used with this value finally or in any other position. Examples: *piti*, *pitiabl*, *hurri*, *hurriing*, *kuerius* (N.S. *pity*, *pityali*, *hurry*, *hurrying*, *kueryus*).

(5) In the S.S.A. system *u* is employed to denote the obscure vowel in certain cases where N.S. retains the existing mode of writing, and particularly in the termination now written *-tion*. Examples: *naeshun*, *nashunaliti* (N.S. *naeshon*, *nashonality*).

In all other respects the two systems are identical. The points of divergence are of little importance, so that the results of experiments with the one system may be taken to hold good for the other.

INDEX

- a* (long) in *spa*, 45, 46
a (short) in *bat*, 40
Adverbs, 78
Agents, 64
ai in *maid*, 54
air in *fair*, 54
Apostrophe, 77, 110
ar in *bar*, 45-46
ar in *carry*, 46, 47
ar in *starry*, 46
au in *haul*, 55-57
aur, 56, 57
- b*, 19
- c*, 20-23, 32
ch, 32-33
ch (Scottish), 33
Changes in Stem, 75, 76
Comparison of Adjectives, 78
Compound Words, 86, 87
Consonant Sounds, 19-39
— —, Summary of Suggested Spellings, 39
Consonants not requiring Change, 19
— requiring Change, 20-28
Contractions, 110
- d*, 19
dh, 29
Diæresis, 13, 47, 75, 109
Digraphs, 29-34, 99, 100
Diphthongs, 42-58
Double Consonant letters, 34-36
- e* (short) in *bet*, 41
ee in *feel*, 48
eer in *beer*, 48
ei in *-veil*, 54
Endings, 72-75
er in *further*, 58-60
ew-sound, 52-54, 103, 104
- f*, 19
Foreign Words, 91
- g*, 20
gz, 24-26
- h*, 19
Homonyms, 83-85, 102
Hyphens, 86, 87, 109
- i* (short) in *pit*, *pity*, 41
— followed by another vowel, 41, 105-108
ie in *cries*, 49
Inflexions, 77-82
ire in *fire*, 49
- j*, 19, 20, 32-33
- k*, 19-27
kh, 33
ks, 23-26
kw, 26, 27
- l*, 19
Long Vowels, 42-60
- m*, 19
Mute Consonant letters, 36-38
— Vowel Letters, 60, 61
- n*, 19
Neutral Vowel, 62-65
New Spelling in Brief, 67, 68
ng, 29-30, 99, 100
nk, 30
nkw, 26
- o* (short) in *pot*, 42
- in *sorry*, 56, 113, 114
Obscure Vowels, 62-66

- oe* in *goes*, 49, 50
oi in *coin*, 58
oo (long) in *moon*, 51-52, 103, 104
— (short) in *good*, 51-52, 103, 104
oor in *poor*, 51, 57
or in *short*, etc., 55-57, 111-114
or in *story*, 55-57, 111, 112
on in *count*, 58
our in *sour*, 58
ower in *lower*, 49, 50, 78
oyer in *employer*, 58
- p, 19
ph, 19
Place Names, 88-90, 115-118
Plurals, 77, 78
Prefixes, 69-72
Principles of New Spelling, 12-16
Proper Names, 88-90

qu, 26-27

r, 28, 39, 111-114
rr, 46, 56, 59, 111-114

s, 27-28
sh, 31-32
Short Vowels, 40-42
Specimen of New Spelling, 92-97
ss (medial), 28
Summary of Suggested Spellings of
Consonant Sounds, 39
Summary of Suggested Spellings of
Vowel Sounds, 6i

System of the S.S.A., 128

t, 19
th, 29, 99

u (short) in *but*, 42
— in *hurry*, 59
ue in *hue*, 52-54
Unstressed *i*-sound, 41, 65, 66
ur in *fur*, 58-60
ur in *purring*, 59, 60
ure in *pure*, 52-54
uu, 51, 52, 103, 104

v, 19
Verb Forms, 77, 79-82
“Vowel + Consonant + *e*,” 42-44
Vowel + *r*, 44, 45
Vowel Sounds, 40-66
— —, Summary, of Suggested
Spellings, 6i
Vowels in Unstressed Positions,
62-66

w, 19
wh, 34
Word Formation, 69-76
Word-signs, 48, 52, 101, 102

x, 23-26
y, 28, 41, 105, 108

z, 27-28
zh, 31-32