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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. //

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schools, not only for their own advantage, but for the advantage of the State itself. Indeed, he might conclude in words very familiar to all: 'We ought to do the one, and not to leave the other undone.'

*On Spelling Reform.*¹ By FRANCIS W. NEWMAN, Emer. Prof.

MY time is short: my subject ample. I must aim at the utmost conciseness. I have distributed a short printed tract containing an explanation—1. Of all the marks which I propose on vowels. 2. Of a few marks which suffice to remove the ambiguity of consonants. 3. Tables of irregularities, on which I shall comment. But first, I beg to state some principles which I assume.

1. I regard a total revolution in our orthography as quite inadmissible. I do not now *argue* on this matter, for it would waste my time. If any revolutionists are present, I beg of their courtesy not to intrude their views and plans just now, when I do not address *them*, but desire to elicit opinion from those who with me entirely deprecate any chasm between the old and the new literature.

2. I nevertheless maintain, that, while an extended knowledge of our language is of great importance to English interests and to the moral enlightenment of Asia, the discord between our writing and our speaking is a serious embarrassment.

3. Such discord, more or less, is inevitable while we have fixed local differences of pronunciation. A double problem lies before us: *on the one hand*, to strive towards unity, with an obliteration of coarse plebeian utterance; *on the other*, to agree upon marks which shall distinctly explain what utterance is intended. The latter problem is comparatively easy, as the few printed pages which I have distributed show. The former problem is more difficult, but is in itself morally desirable, even if we had no literature. How great success may be gained by well-ordered national schools is instructively shown by little Greece; which, in less than a century of private effort, and half a century of State organisation, has marvellously cleared off a chaos from her speech; and every twenty years has taken long strides *back* towards a purer vocabulary and nobler syntax.

4. I say one function of literature is to check the ever-acting tendency of slang, fantasy, and depraved taste which damage simplicity, destroy melody, and confound different words. Our writing is more distinctive than our speaking, and

¹ See *Sessional Proceedings*, 1876-7, p. 101.

we ought carefully to retain such advantage as it has. We must not yield to the evil tendencies of innovators in pronunciation, especially fashionable idlers, but resist them, and cause them to be resisted in the national schools.

5. When I speak of fixing a normal pronunciation, I no more mean that we adults shall be called on to change our habitual speech than that we shall remodel our handwriting. Very few of us will claim perfect caligraphy, yet we agree that writing-masters shall form the taste and eye of children to more perfect forms of the letters than we ourselves execute. So too we admit a few homely contractions in speech, as *dönt*, *wönt*, *shànt*, *tuppence*; but we forbid them in serious reading. If we had a generally understood mode of marking a text, so as to fix the sounds intended, different counties would learn their special diversities, and out of self-knowledge would arise discussion and a movement towards unity. But no one country or county of the United Kingdom would be able to dictate its own utterance as a law to the rest. Each is likely to have its weak side; *reasons* must be given *why* one pronunciation ought to be normal; and if there is good temper and no dogmatism, we shall tend towards unity.

6. In selecting suitable marks, we ought to prefer those which are familiar to our printers, and avoid all that are disfiguring to a text, or hard to see. A single dot is not easy to see, unless it be too large for a printer's taste.

So much may suffice for principles. Let us remember that our case is by no means peculiar. French is harder to write down from listening than is English; to read it from a book correctly needs many grammatical rules, and if it had not three accents it would be harder still to read. Greek needs accents; Polish has plenty of them; and though classical Italian has an orthography almost perfect, Italy has been said to have five languages, so different are the local dialects. Most Italians have two languages to learn, as diverse as our written and spoken languages. There is no reason to scold over and deplore our linguistic condition, but simply brace ourselves up to improve it.

I proceed to some remarks on the printed papers in your hands.

My first practical wish is to secure your influence with all School Boards, to have such Tables of Irregularities set up in every primary school room. The eyes of children ought to be familiarised with the words which have an irregular sound. From these schools information would radiate. The public would become aware how limited is this problem: hence would

arise a willingness to accept small improvements. At present everyone is afraid either of being thought ignorant, or of plunging into chaos, if a single change of spelling is admitted.

If I am asked with what I wish to *begin at once*, if I could attain agreement, I will try to answer concisely :

First, I desire to omit boldly certain letters which all know to be superfluous ; these are chiefly in two Tables. In the first Table is *ea*, wrongly for short *e*. This is so noxious, that when the public has before it a complete list of the words, I believe they will gladly acquiesce in dropping the *a*. Much the same may be said of the *u* in Honour, Favour, &c. It is sickening to hear people argue that we ought to retain it as a *memento* that it comes to us through French. Why then do they not write Editour, Pastour, &c. ? The *u* was fast going out in all these words sixty years ago, but a few pedants headed reaction successfully. No one writes Honourary : why insist on Honourable ? If a committee appointed by this Society advised the omission, we might get rid of a noxious *a* in some seventy-five words, and a superfluous *u* in all that are derived from the Latin termination *or* ; and a beginning would be made of cautious improvement.

Next, I desire that at least a few authors would take boldness to print two dots over *a* and *e*, two dots under *o*, and a circumflex over *o* in a few words where it may seem peculiarly necessary : such as

ängel, dänger, ëvil, sön, cöver, dô, môve, tômb.

The public would quickly see the advantage of this. No compulsion would be put on any one. No chasm would arise between our old library books and our new literature. Dr. Samuel Johnson deprecated writing Music, Public, Mimic, without *k* at the end, and in Mimicking we have still to insert *k* ; but no one is offended by the contrast of old and new style so limited. And when complete Tables of the Irregular Words become diffused, no reluctance for so small improvement would be encountered.

If a movement of this sort once began, one might print at the beginning or end of every volume, indeed every pamphlet, concise tables of the words whose spelling we alter ; and if funds were at hand one might advertise these in magazines. *The main thing needed*, is : that those who agree in principles should not cause confusion by adopting different marks and modes in detail.

I have copied out for myself specimens from Adam Smith, Sir James Macintosh, Sir John Herschel, and others ; and

have accented these so as to remove ambiguities. Any one who glances at the pages will see how little their aspect is altered, though I introduce Greek θ for our sharp *th*.

SYSTEM OF VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS.

	A	E	I, Y	O	U
1.	man parish charity	men merry merit	pin, pity spirit mirror	sot sorry coronet	tub hurry
2. [The same- sound].	māne main they neigh nay	mēte, me meat, bee meet conceit field	pīe, dīe pīne cry high bite	tōe tōw boat sōul sōle	tūne dūe dew valūe neuter
with broken R	pāre pāir scārce	pēar hēir thēre	After sh, ch, or j the ū and ā are indistinguishable.		
3.	fāther fārther fār pāss	hēr † (broken r)	fīr †	gōne lōss fōrd law	fūr † cūr
4.	āll, awl maul wār wāter	grēat * brēak stēak	marīne invalid green tier	dō too tōmb mōve	rāe rāle brew you
5.	whāt wās wāsp	brēad [omit a?].		sōn cōver wōrry	buill puill puūt
6.	āny † sāid † māny † villāge			tō § bōsom wōlf wōman	

* Three words only. *Fête* is French.

† Exceptional.

‡ *Hēr, fīr, cūr* rhyme perfectly: (the accent is superfluous: broken r super-

sedes it:) so *pāre, pāir, pēar* are identical in sound.

§ Four words only.

As we may write *Hen* and *Her* with the same vowel (though *Hēr* would be more accurate), so we may write *Worry*, *Word*, *Worm* with the same vowel η , though in the two last the broken r slightly lengthens η .

Further: I ask special attention to my last Table, which consists of very eccentric words, generally isolated, most of

them errors or fancies in spelling. A Table of these ought above all to be diffused. When the public understands the true case, that the received spelling is a blunder, as in *Bury* spelt with *u* instead of *i*; as in *Build* with *u* mischievously inserted; as in *Limb* with *b* gratuitously stuck on; as in *Colonel* with a stupid *l* instead of *r*; I do not fear that violent resistance to change will be made by any one who holds in his hands the entire Table, and sees the limit of innovation. Prudent, well-reasoned improvement, which does not alter the general aspect of the language, will have a sure and steady march.

On the detail of my marks I will only observe that that long sound of English vowels which Professor Jarrett calls their *name-sound*, viz., that which is heard when we name A E I O U, ought surely to be denoted by the very same mark. The Germans write *ä* for the first, and two dots above suit well for all. This sound of the letters is characteristically English.

SCHEME FOR DISTINGUISHING AMBIGUOUS CONSONANTS.

[On *gh* sounded *f*, see Table XII.]

<i>For</i>	<i>Write and Print</i>
Gear, Gimlet, &c.	'Gear, 'Gimlet, &c.
Hunger, Finger, &c.	Hun'ger, Fin'ger, &c.
Hanger, Bringer	Haŋger, Briŋger
Ague, Languish	Agüe, Languish
Chaise* Machine	Çhaïse, Maçhïne
Archives*, Architect	Ar'chives, Ar'chitect
Ocean, Gracious	Oçean, Graçious
Vision, Sugar	Vi'sion, Şugar
Nation, Mission	Nätion, Mişşion
This, thing	Δis, θing.

[* When *s* is sounded *z*, there is much to be said for printing it by the Greek capital Σ which suggests a *Z* to us: as

wa Σ , church Σ , ro Σ e, lo Σ e,

But this would not suit manuscript.]

Z very seldom takes the sound of French *j*. Most persons so sound it in *Azure*; yet *äzure* (with pure *z*) is as good. At the worst we can surmount *z*, if necessary, as '*s*', with the Greek aspirate.

Initial *Gh* is found only in the roots *Ghost* and *Ghastly*. The adverb *Aghast* is *Agast* in some dictionaries. Initial *Gu* before a vowel is never sounded as *Gw*: thus no ambiguity exists as to initial *Gh* nor *Gu*, and we need not now be troubled by them. The word *Ague* I propose to print *Agüe*.

It might be worth while to strike a single type for the nasal *ng*, which is indeed a single sound, if to couple the letters in some way involves as much trouble.

The termination *tion* is so common, and the pronunciation so uniform, that a cedilla under the *t* would barely be of use to call the attention of *learners* to the fact that *ti* before a vowel has the force of *sh*.

Nor do I venture to recommend *at present* the introduction of Δ for blunt *th*, though it gives the exact sound. The words *the*, *this*, *that*, recur so often, that the aspect of a page is unpleasantly altered by Δ ; but if Θ θ be used for sharp *th*, no ambiguity remains.

For the same reason I do not advise writing *ov* for *of*. No error does or can arrive from *of*, irregular as it is.

But the demonstrative *that* ought ALWAYS to have an accent on the *a*, while the relative and adverbial *that* (sounded with obscure *ă*) never has an accent.

To the two words '*one*', '*once*', I suggest to add an apostrophe.

IRREGULARITIES.

Table I.

ea for *e*, absurdly.

1. earl, early, earn, earnest, earth, hearse, rehearse, learn, pearl, search. [yearn? yëarn?]
2. dealt, dreamt, heard, leapt, leant, meant, breadth, dearth, health, stealth, wealth [*ea* in these is a grammatical error], cleanse, cleanly, cleanliness, zealot, zealous, jealous, jealousy, treacherous, treachery.
3. bread, dead, death, deadly, deaf, deafen, head, heady, lead (*metal*), leaden, read (pp), ready, already, dread, dreadful, spread, stead, steady, thread, tread, breast, breath, breathless, realm, sweat, sweaty, breakfast, endeavour, meadow, feather, heather, weather, leather, leathern, heaven, leaven, weapon, measure, pleasure, treasure, pleasant, peasant, pheasant.

At the same time *Read* (pp) should be written *Redd*, and when *Bread* becomes *Bred*, the verbal *Bred* (from *Breed*) should be written *Bredd*; also *Led* (from verb *lead*) should be written *Ledd*.

In the Midland Counties I am told that *yearn* rhymes to *Urn*, *Burn*. If this is more prevalent it should be written *yern*. But I am familiar in the South only with the pronunciation *yëarn*.

Until the superfluous *a* is dropt, we may write *ea*. The sooner it is dropt, the better.

Table II.

Words in which *ow* or *ou* means long *ö*.

Böw, Blöw, (Blöwn) Cröw, Flöw, Glöw, Gröw (Gröwn), Knöw (Knöwn), Löw, Möw (Möwn), Röw, Söw (Söwn), Shöw, (Shöwn), Snöw, Stöw, Ströw (Ströwn), Töw, Flöwn (from Fly). Also Slöw, Böwl, Jöwl, Löwer.

The *W* is no more wanted in Söw, Söwing, Söwer than in Go, Going, Goer. [Webster writes *Bowlder* for Boulder, and connects it with Bowl.] Also, Böulder, Contröul (or Contröl), Cöurt, Cöurtly, Cöurtier, Cöurtesy, Döugh, Föur, Möuld, Möuldy, Möult, Möurn, Pöultry, Pöult, Pöulterer, Pöur, Shöulder, Smöulder, Söul, Söurce

Table III.

ough for *o* (sounded *aw*).

'Ought, Böught, Bröught, Cöugh, Föught, Nöught, Söught, Thöught, Tröugh, Wröught. Ten words.

Table IV.

French *i* long.

Antique, Brigantine, Caprice, Ennuí, Fascine, Gabardine, Intrigue, Invalid, Magazine, Machine, Marine, Pique, Pelisse, Police, Routine, Suite, Mosquito (?), Palanquin (?), Unique.

Table V.

ou sounded as in French.

(6 Saxon words) Ousel, Touzle (*rumple*), Through, Uncouß, Wound, You. (13 French) Accoutre, Bourn or Bourne, Croup, Group, Gourd, Joust, Bagout, Rouge, Route, Routine, Soup, Tour, Tourist. [Also *Manceuvre*]—write *ousel*, *accou-tre*, &c.

Table VI.

ou for simple *U*.

Chough (a bird) Enough, Rough, Tough, Slough (of snake), Country, Couple, Courage, Cousin, Double, Trouble, Flourish, Nourish, Sojourn, Journey, Journal, Touch. [Also such adjectives as Envious, Devious, Dubious, Copious, Captious, &c.]

Table VII.

ou for simple *o*.

Honour, Favour, Splendour, &c. . . . But omit the *u* in all these, writing Honor, Honorable, Honorary, Favor, Favorite, Splendor, Armor, Armorer, Ardor, Candor, Clamor, Color, Demeanor, Ende(a)vor, Flavor, Horror, Humor, Labor, Odor, (Odorous, Laborious) Rumor, Savor, Savior, Terror, Tremor, Vapor; just as: Actor, Author, Captor, Creator, Curator, Doctor, Editor, Executor, Factor, Governor, Lictor, Narrator, Orator, Pastor, Proctor, Perpetrator, Rector, Tutor, Victor, Warrior, and probably many others in which no one now writes — our.

Table VIII.

â for *au*.

- (1) before *l*.—All, Bâll, Call, Fall, Falcon, False, Gall, Hall, Pall, Small, Squall, Stall, Tall, Thrall, Wall. Altar, Alter, Falter, Palter, Halter, Halt, Halbert, Malt, Salt. Balk, Chalk, Stalk, Talk, Walk [1 mute].
- (2) after *w* or *qu*.—Wâter, War, Ward, Warden, Warder, Sward, Swart, Swarthy, Warm, Swarm, Warn, Warp, Wharf, Wrath, Wart. Quart, Quarter, Quartz. [47 words].

Table IX.

q for short *o*.

Yacht, Wad, Waddle, Swaddle, Twaddle, Twattle, Wattle, Wallow, Swallow, Jalap, Walrus, Swamp, Wan, Swan, Wand, Wander, Squander, Want, Wanton, Whap, Wrap, Warrant, Warren, Warrior, Was, Wassail, Wash, Quash, Squash, Wasp, What, Watch, Squab, Squabble, Quadrant, Quadruped, Squad, Squadron, Quagmire, Squalid, Squat, [Squâlor is Latin, known only to scholars]. Qualify, Quality, Equality, Quantum, Quantity, Quarry, Quarrel. (48 words).

[Quagga, being foreign, retains *a* sharp].

Table X.

o for *u*. (See Table VI.)

Above, Among, Attorney, Blood, Brother, Color, Cólander, Colonel [Coronel?], Come, Comfits, Comfort, Company, Companion, Compass, Constable, Covenant, Cover, Covert, Covet, Covey, Cozen, Discomfit, Done, Does, Dove, Dozen, Flood, Front, Glove, Glover, Govern, Governor, Honey, Love,

Lover, Monk, Monkey, Money, -monger, Mongrel, Month, Mother, None, 'One, 'Once, Other, Plover, Pommel, Some, *Soot, Shove, Shovel, Sloven, Slovenly, Smother, Somerset, Somersault, Son, Ton, Tongue, Won, Wonder. (62 words.)
I place two dots under this o.

Table XI.

u or *ou* for Italian short *u*.

Bull, Bullock, Bully, Bullet, Bullion, Bulrush, Bulwark, Bush, Bushel, Butcher, Cushion, Courier, Could, Should, Would, Full, Fuller, Fulsome, Fulmar (*bird*), Pudding, Pull, Pully, Pullet, Pulpit, Push, Puss, Put, Sugar. Two dots also under this u.

Also in the South of England *oo* short in the following: (long *oo* in the North, perhaps better?) Book, Brook, Cook, Crook, Hook, Look, Nook, Rook, Shook, Took. Good, Hood, Stood, Wood. Foot, Broom, Groom, Room, Wool.

Table XII.

Ten words in which final *gh* is sounded *f*.

Cough, Trough, Laugh, Draught,
Chough (a bird), Enough, Rough, Slough (of snake), Sough
(subterranean drain), Tough.

Until the public consent to write *f* in these for *gh*, we may set a triple dot (\therefore) over the *g*.

[The poetical or Scottish (?) verb Sough, a mongrel between Sigh and Sob, is sounded *Suff* by some persons, *Sou* by others. Webster says nothing of the pronunciation, but identifies it with a Teutonic verb *Soeffen*.]

A Slough, or swamp, is sounded *Slou*.

The verb to eat has two forms of the past tense, (*aorists* of Greek grammar)—I *âte* (antiquated), and I *ett* (modern).

Table XIII.

Words in which *ei* is sounded *ë*.

Conceive, Conceit, Deceive, Deceit, Receive, Recei(p)t, Seize, Weir, Weird.

Table XIV.

Words in which we may at once improve the spelling: the common mode of writing being in many a blunder, in others so eccentric that it is better to extinguish the irregularity.

* Söt in London; but Söt in some counties.
Some write Cullender for Colander.

<i>For</i>	<i>Write</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Write</i>
Gaol, Gaoler	Jail, Jailer	Sceptic	Skeptic (as by the Americans)
Whore	Hore	Shoe	Shoo (old pl. Shoon)
Build	Bild	Canoe	Canoo (foreign word)
Buy, Buyer	Bigh, Bigher	Have	Hav
Busy, Business	Bisy, Bisiness	Give	Giv
Friend	Frend	to Live	to Liv
Nephew	Nevev	Women	Wimen
Phial	Vial	Parliament	Parlement (as in old books)
Shew	Show	Houghs (of horse)	Hocks
Plait (straw)	Plat	Hiccough	Hiccup
Plait (a frill)	Pleat	Yacht	Yaght or Yat
Plaid	Plad	Colonel	Cōrnel (as of old)
Plat (of ground)	Plot	Schism	Sciam
Accompts	Accounts	Schedule	Shedule
Accomptant	Accountant	Iale, Island	Ile, Iland
Receipt	Receit	Aisle	Aile
Gauge	Guage	Foreign	Forein
Cartouch	Cartridge	Sovereign	Soverein
Mosquito	Moskeeto		
Palaquim	Palankeen		
Hearken	Harken (as Hark!)		
Beauty	Beuty		

Certain words also ought to be written with *k* or *c* not *qu*, viz. Eskimo, Check (?), Checker, Kiosk, Lacker, Lackey, Licorice, Moskeeto, Palankeen, Picket.

In Women, plural of Woman, the vowel change of *o* was in analogy to other plural changes, as Man, Men, Mouse, Mice; and ought to be recognised in writing, as Woman, Wimen. The *gh* which is rightful in Bigh reappears in Bought. Jail, Jailer used to be very common; but now the correctors of the press will hardly allow me so to write. Gaol, sounded Jail, is a gratuitous irregularity. The *u* in Busy, Buy, Build is a blunder, as the *w* in Whore. Sh has as much right in Shedule as in Sheet.

Moreover we certainly ought to omit final *b* in Lamb, Limb, Comb, Coomb, Catacomb, Coxcomb, Honeycomb, Dumb, Numb, Benumb, Thumb; and may quite as well omit it in Tōmb and Wōmb.—In *Climb* we ought to retain and sound *b*, as they do in Cumberland, making *i* short, and distinguishing the word from Clime. Compare *Clamber*. So in some other words the Scottish and Northern pronunciation should be adopted as most correct; then no discord of sound and writing is met; as in Clērk, Sērjeant, Heart, Hēarth. I have heard *People* sounded locally in three syllables, and perhaps this ought to be esteemed most correct.

Root words with *H* initial mute.

Heir, Honest, Honor, Hour, Humor—5 only—or even 4.

[In Humid, Horary we sound H; so in Heritage, Inherit, Heritable. In Herb, Humble, Hospital, Hotel, *we have recovered* H, though some fashionable folk are now trying to get rid of it. We *write* and *pronounce* indifferently Hostler and Osler or Ostler.]

Words with French *qu* for *k*.

Cäsque, Coquette, Coquetry, Etiquette, Exchequer, Gigantesque, Grotesque, Picturesque, Statuesque, Mosque, Oblique, Pique, Quay, Quoit, Marquee [*better* Markee?] In Liquor and Conquer the *u* ought to be *pronounced*, just as in Liquid and Conquest.

In a pamphlet called Orthoëpy I have given ample tables of elementary words which have Rhyme or Assonance, which I believe to afford the best material for teaching young pupils the true sounds. I have somewhat improved my system of marks since that pamphlet was written.

Agricultural Education in connection with the College at Cirencester. By Rev. JOHN CONSTABLE.

THE Agricultural College at Cirencester, founded thirty-three years ago under a Royal charter, originated in a desire to improve the general education of the sons of tenant farmers. The college fees were fixed very low to meet the necessities of the class for whom it was designed. The system of education was to be as general as possible, with the addition of sound teaching in the sciences on which the practice of agriculture depends, and of daily observation of the work on an efficiently managed farm. The theory of this was sound, and the result must have been satisfactory, had the human elements necessary in such work been all that theory required. It must be obvious that the difficulties would be found both in securing the services of an efficient farm-manager, and in the proper control of the heterogeneous assemblage that would be brought together at the outset of such an original undertaking.

It seems to be the generally received opinion among farmers that no one is likely to be a successful cultivator of the soil who has not been accustomed to the work of a farm from his youth; and no doubt, whether this be exclusively so or not, there is very little question that the sooner young persons

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE CONCLUDING GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

THE Council have much pleasure in congratulating the town of Cheltenham upon the successful Congress that has now been brought to a satisfactory termination. No less than 718 tickets have been sold, which, considering the population of Cheltenham, is a result that will bear favourable comparison with any previous meeting of the Association. Indeed, it is not too much to say that, in no place of a similar magnitude, in point of population, could a greater interest in the work and objects of our society have been displayed.

The inaugural address of the President was delivered to a brilliant assemblage, and the attendance at the addresses of the Presidents of Departments has been exceptionally strong. The discussions in the Departments have, on the whole, been well supported, though, as is usually the case, some Sections have been better attended than others.

To the Mayor the Association must be always indebted for the great interest he has taken in the proceedings throughout, and for the very liberal hospitality that our members have experienced. The thanks of the Association are specially due to the Rev. Canon Barry, D.D., for his opening sermon; to the Principal of the Ladies' College, for the use of the building; to the New Club, and the Cheltenham Permanent Library, for placing their rooms at the disposal of our members; to J. C. Dent, Esq., of Sudely Castle, and the Rev. J. E. Fenwick, of Tharlstaine House, for throwing open their residences for the inspection of visitors; and, though last, by no means least, to the local honorary secretaries (Colonel Basevi and the Rev. E. Cornford), the treasurer, the local committee, and the many other gentlemen whose energetic labours and kind hospitality have conducted so much to the success of the meeting.

The Council would specially thank the Press for the able and friendly manner in which the proceedings of the Congress have been reported.

The following are the reports of the proceedings of the various Departments:—

II.—EDUCATION.

The interest in the Papers brought before this Section has been fully sustained. Of the questions selected for special discussion the first, 'Is it desirable to establish Free Primary Schools throughout the Country?' led to an animated discussion, drawing out many expressions of the opinions of practical men holding different views on this complicated question. The suggestion that free schools might at least be tentatively

opened in the districts of some School Boards which were willing to make the experiment, apparently met with the approval of a considerable portion of the meeting. The discussion on the question, 'Is it expedient to increase the number of Universities in England?' was opened by representatives of Owens College, Manchester, while gentlemen of much experience from London, from Leeds, and from Nottingham contributed Papers setting forth distinctive views on the subject. The balance of opinion did not seem to regard the case of Owens College as sufficiently made out in favour of raising it to an independent position as a body legally vested with the power of conferring degrees; though its high standing, and great utility as an educational institution, were fully recognised. It was, however, considered that the individuality and activity of the North demanded some more distinct recognition, though opinions were somewhat divided as to whether that recognition should take the form of 'regulation by,' or 'affiliation with' the existing older Universities. The Section appeared further, for the most part, to agree with the President of the Section in the view that if such means should be found insufficient the movement should take the more general form of 'a Northern University.' The third special question, 'In what way is it Desirable to connect the System of Primary Schools with the Endowed and other Schools which supply Secondary Education?' led to a decided expression of opinion that it is high time that a more efficient organisation should be introduced into the system of national education. The grading of primary schools, and their more definite association with secondary schools, was strongly recommended, both to relieve teachers of small schools, who have often to work single-handed, from the excessive labour of teaching both infants and the elder children through all the six Standards, and the better to open up the way to more efficient teaching in higher branches of study. The Section was further supported by many other Papers of unusual weight and interest. One, on the London School Board, gave a concise account of the nature of the work done in the metropolis. A brief notice of the Agricultural College at Cirencester effectively brought into notice a valuable branch of special education. The German system of Educating the Deaf, was ably expounded, and attracted much interest. The Educational influences of the Drama, were touched upon with reference to the work of the Dramatic Reform Association. The incalculable importance of early training was again brought before the Section by a Paper on Fröbel and the Kindergarten system. Two valuable Papers were devoted to the Teaching of Science in schools, and to the place in them for technical education. The important subjects of the Training and Registration of Teachers, and more especially of the training of teachers for high schools for girls, were also brought before the Section, and both the Papers and the discussion on them were full of points of much practical interest. The Duties of Women as Managers of Elementary Schools were also set forth by a lady highly qualified to know and to explain all that can, and ought to be, done by school managers, and especially of women willing to take their share in this branch of educational work. Lastly, the subject of Spelling Reform was brought forward in a weighty

Paper by Professor Francis W. Newman. The expositions afforded threw light on a question which has apparently been much misapprehended, and an audience of about 100 carried the subjoined resolution, one hand only being held up against it: 'That the question of Spelling Reform be referred to the Council of the Association, with the request that they will consider whether some such system as Professor Newman advises, of adding clearness to pronunciation by the addition of accents or otherwise, cannot be adopted.'