

SIMPLE SPELLERS ISSUE A LIST FOR BEGINNERS

**It Includes 300 Words, Mostly
Having Dictionary Sanction.**

MORE IF MORE ARE WANTED

**Thousands Have Promised to Use the
New Forms, the Board Says—
Inquiries Welcomed.**

The Simplified Spelling Board, which agrees to send its documents to those who may desire them, has just issued an abbreviated list of the 300 simplified spellings that were promulgated some two months ago. In the new list only the simple form is given. The new list is printed, the board says, for the use of teachers, lecturers, writers, and others who may undertake to promote the use of the simpler forms in schools, newspapers, and elsewhere.

The board says that nearly all the 300 spellings have the sanction of three dictionaries current in the United States, either as preferred or alternative forms. It declares that more than one-half of the new list is preferred by Webster's Dictionary, more than six-tenths by the Century, and two-thirds by the Standard.

The first word in the list is "abridgment." The spelling of "judgment" without the "e" has long been the best usage in this country, and the board believes that "abridgment" is just as logical, as is also "lodgment" and similar words.

"Accouter" marks the intent of the board to do away with the "re" ending, as in "centre." Other words of the same class that are recommended by the board are luster, meter, ocher, saber, scepter, somber, specter, theater, caliber, caliper, niter, miter, and fiber. The board also favors bans, (not banns,) bur, gram, program, pur, quartet, quintet, septet, sextet, and dram.

Would Do Away with "Ed."

A form that is less used, perhaps, than any of the others recommended in the list of 300 is the "t" ending for "ed," as in "addrest." In defense of this spelling the board brings up the greatest figures in English literature. Among those in the line of defense are Shakespeare, Spenser, Bacon, Hooker, Johnson, Goldsmith, Byron, Lamb, Tennyson, Whittier, Lowell, and many another.

The board makes an especially eloquent plea for this form. "The forms cited here," it says in its list, "are only a few out of the large number that appear in the authors mentioned. They merely serve to establish the rule that once widely prevailed in English spelling. Such forms were for a long period perfectly normal and perfectly familiar not only in verse, but in prose. The rule was formally recognized by grammarians and lexicographers."

Many a boy has written past for passed, for which he got hard words from the teacher. It would make his heart glad to see the list of the board, which recommends the following forms: Accurst, addrest, affixt, blest, blusht, clapt, claspt, clipt, discust, dript, droopt, dropt, and lasht. Spenser, Shakespeare, and Quarles are cited as authorities for "lasht." There are those in the younger generation of America who will welcome the shortening of the word as well as the absolute abolition of what it connotes.

How many will agree to "kist"? "He kist her by the garden gate" may now be written. For "kist" defenders from all periods of English literature are brought forth. There is Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Goldsmith, Lamb, and Tennyson. They ought to know.

More examples of that form which are recommended by the board are leapt, lept, mist, (not missed,) mixt, nipt, possest, prest, profest, propt, ript, rapt, skipt, snipt, snapt, stept, and many others where the old "t" form is preferred to the "ed" form now most in use.

Simplifying the Diphthong.

A form already pretty widely in use in America, as being the most sensible, is the use of a single letter for diphthongal combinations. Most people already prefer anemia, anesthesia, anesthetic, archeology, coeval, dieresis, ecumenical, edile, egis, Eolian, eon, esthetic, and esthetics, maneuver, medieval, and orthopedic. The small boy will be glad to know that this is the way to spell encyclopedia, esophagus, etiology, hypotenuse, phenix, pedobaptist, phenomenon, prenomen, preterit, and pretermit.

Other forms that are recommended by the board are adz, antipyrin, antitoxin, apothem, (not apothegm,) ax, bark for barque, check for cheque, controller, domicil, envelop, gelatin, gipsy, gloze, good-by, hiccup, stedfast, pigmy, plow, raze, rime, simitar, silvan, sithe, lacrimal, wagon, wo, woolen, and clue. The Police Department recommends clue. It uses the word more than anybody else.

According to the Board of Simplified Spelling, the spirituous essence of corn or rye that makes a man feel as a king one day and as a subject for the Coroner the day after should be spelled without an "e." The board believes that one should leave as much out of whiskey as possible. None of the ancient authors recommended that, but things have changed now.

Gazelle Shortened, Too.

The following forms are old acquaintances in the lists of reformed spellings: Altho, decalog, dactyl, catalog, demagog, cutlas, coquet, distil, epaulet, and gazel, though no lover will be ever prevented from writing to her this momentous question: "Whose eyes are like the gazelle's? I know."

More such old acquaintances are mama, omelet, paraffin, pedagog, tho, thoro, thorofare, thoroly, thru, thruout, and woful. There are a few millionaires that will be very happy to know that what the server arms himself with has been shortened; the board recommends subpena.

The board would also prefer fulfil, fullness, instil, skilful, and wilful; also sulfate, sulfur, sumac, fantasm, fantom, molder, molding, and moldy.

The board recommends hock, not hough. Everybody knows what hough means; the Standard Dictionary says that it is the same as hock. But the word has no connection with relieving a temporary difficulty by passing under the three balls. Only vulgar persons use hock in that sense. The real, proper hock or hough means to disable by cutting the tendons of the hock; the noun meaning the joint of the hind legs in quadrupeds situated between the tibia and tarsus. There, now.

Would Exorcize the "S."

The board recommends the consistent use of z in words that are promiscuously spelled with s or z, as, for example, artizan, civilize, comprize, criticize, catechize, exorcize, idolize, legalize, naturalize, materialize, partizan, patronize, and surprize. But don't spell the noun and verb in any other way than practise; forget the "c" spelling.

The Board of Simplified Spelling desires that the country have unanimous opinion about jail. Time was, no doubt, the board would say, when it was perfectly proper to write, "Dear father, I am in gaol, and so please send me \$50." But that time is now past, (not passed.) If the necessity arise, please write it just common, every-day jail, and thus be up-to-date though behind the bars.

Thousands have promised to write it that way, for thousands have promised to use, so far as practicable, the simplified spellings recommended by the board, it says. The board will answer all inquiries directed to its office at 1 Madison Avenue.