SPELLING MADE EASY.

A Skeptic on the Theory of the Reform Expresses His Views.

Phonological Reformers Have Failed in Their Frequent and Vigorous Efforts.

i,000,000 Ways in Which the Elemen-tary Seunds in the Word Seissers May Be Formed.

It is a remarkable feature connected with the various spelling reform movements that they have all failed, even that fathered by the distinguished phonologist, Alexander Fills, and indorsed by the leaders of linguistic science—the palæctype—went the way of all such schemes and was finally repudiated by its originator himself.

The fact is, when the people find that a language needs reforming they reform it themselves, little heeding the dictums of learned societies in the matter. The English language suits the English speaking races. It is adapted to all the requirements of the most highly cultivated, in the language of Mark Twain, it is "a language that can stand the strain when you want to say something really worth saying," and the great mass of the people object to paying a doctor bill where there is no disease. That is why spelling reform has not succeeded.

ing a doctor bill where there is no disease. That is why spelling reform has not succeeded.

Every one admits that the English language contains irregularities and inconsistencies. So does every other language. So does the constitution of the vast body of human society. Nothing is free from them. Our laws, our theology, our medicine, all are crude and imperfect. But violent revolutionary measures are not admissible. Improvements must be made slowly. The laws of "natural selection and the survival of the fittest" operate here as in the rest of naturely exist domain.

The great error of the spelling reformers lies in the assumption that spelling is a logical process. It is really an exercise of the memory. A word is apprehended as a whole, not as a collection of individual joints. When we write a word, we do not consider it as composed of letters. It is to us simply the picture of an idea, and the accuracy of our spelling depends upon the vividness of the image in our memory. It is an axiom in psychology that the simpler faculties attain a more perfect development than the complex.

Is it reasonable to suppose that in cases where the basic faculty of memory is so poorly developed that the subject spells cat with a k the judgment can have reached that stage of perfection which is required to carry on the processes of inductive and deductive reasoning in a satisfactory manner?

to carry on the processes of inductive and deductive reasoning in a satisfactory manner?

To illustrate the argument take the word scissors, which Alexander Ellis has already made the subject of computation. Ellis figured out that this word could be spelled about 6,000 different ways. But he admitted only such signs for the sounds of the word as were consistent with the etymological analogy. But what does that blockhead, the spelling reformer's client, who cannot recall the way to spell scissors, know about etymological analogy? Let us see in how many ways he would spell one word according to the ordinary brand of analogy on tap in his brainpan seven days in the week, Sunday included.

The word scissors contains six elementary sounds—to writ:

S-1-Z-E-R-S.

The first and the last are the simple sound of "s." The scoond is short "i," as heard in "thin." The third is the simple sound of "c," the will-o'the-wisp of the English language. The fifth is the simple sound of "n."

The first and last sounds may be repre-

word may be spelt—according to simple analogy.

Still we are not aware that any considerable percentage of people that ever attended school have any difficulty in spelling the the word in the single way which is correct. No complaints are heard except from the spelling reformers, philological anarchists who want to equalize all the differences among words as their political prototypes strive to do among men.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Where He Was.

Where He Was.
"How many stories has this building?"
asked the stranger.
"Several thousand," was the repl;
"What—why, where an 1?"
"In the friction department of the public thrary."—Washington Star.

A Dangerous Disease

Anxious Mother—Yes, Jane is very sick, don't hope for her to get well. The doc-r says she has a torpede liver.—Newport

The Marquis of Londonderry is the owner of the smallest pony known. It weighs only 16 pounds and at its birth was but 1914 inches high.

weather is fair.

Constance Smith heads the female staff at the Postoffice Savings bank in London and has 700 women in charge.

Mrs. Grant desies the truth of published stories to the effect that her granddaughter, Vivien Sartoris, is to study for the stage.

Mrs. A. L. Wister, whose translations from the German are so well known, is a resident of Philadelphia and daughter of Dr. Furness, the venerable Unitarian cler-

gyman.

Mrs. Sear of Ambeston, England, has a lost of bread that was given to one of her ancestors by King John with a grant of land. The lost is 600 years old and is getting somewhat stale.

Miss Misnebaba, an Indian woman, is a trained nurse in the New York Woman's hospital, and this namesake of Longfel-low's ("Hawatha") Dakota heroine is said to be one of the best in the institution.

Mrs. Russell B. Harrison is spending the summer at the beautiful home of ex-Senator Saunders in Omaha, an old house surround-ed by spactous grounds. Here she is rest-ing quietly from the toil and fatigue of the last four years.

Mrs. Lizzio H. Perkins of Bath, Me., didn't want lawyers to have anything to do with making her will, so she drew one to suit herself. Up to date 20 lawyers have had a shy at it, and the supreme court of the state will now wrestle with it.

Baroness Helene Heden, aged 79 years, was sent to the Vienna workhouse as a va-grant last week upon her averament that her relations would not support her. She is the widow of a millionaire and mother of the privy councilor, Baron Reden.

Miss Wladislaw Frankol, a Jewish so-tress, has caused a sensation in Hebrew circles by becoming a convert to Catholi-cism. She was received into the St. Stanis-laus church, Brooklyn, recently despite the entreaties and protests of her relatives.

Mrs. Bell, wife of Professor Bell, the tele-phone inventor, a young and pretty wom-an, was a deaf mute until taught the lip language, but she now converses easily and understands all that is said around her. Her husband instructed her in the sign lan-

guage.

Miss Minnie Brooks, the adopted daughter of the Masonic fraternity of Arkansas and Louisiana, was married recently in Little Rock, where for many years at each conclave of the grand lodge her name was called, Minnie usually answering "Present." When she was a child, her father, who was a Mason, died, and the Masons adopted and educated her.

Scientific Classification of Snakes.

To the British museum series of catalogues Mr. G. A. Boulenger has recently added a classification of snakes. It is a moot point whether anakes form a distinct order of reptiles or a branch of the group to which lisards and chameleons belong. Mr. Boulenger adopts the first theory as regards his text and recommends the second in his notes. He is the only man who has ever classified snakes scientifically. The popular generalization that "snakes are pizen" caunot be accepted as scientific; neither can the slightly more discriminating subdivision into snakes which are "pizen" and snakes which are not. The only classification fit to stand, up till now, is the one based upon cranial differences, which Mr. Boulenger has expounded in his work on the "Reptilia and Batrachia of British India." According to this work, there are nine different families of snakes, and India alone knows 294 separate species which fall under them. The commonest families are the bolde, embracing boas, pythons and the cryx (a two headed snake much affected by Indian jugglers), the viperide, including vipers and rattlesnakes, and last, but not least, seeing that fully two-thirds of all the snakes belong to it, the colubrides. Scientific Classification of Snakes.

sound of "r."

The first and last sounds may be represented by any of the following letters and combinations, as will be seen from the examples given:

By sc, as in scissors. By c, as in circle. By e.e., as in canses. By sc, as in scissors. By sc, as in schoolesce. By sc, as i

be expressed as follows:

By i, as in cassors. By ai, as in captain. By as, as in Expean. By e, as in English. By ea, as in Expean. By e, as in the Experiment of Spain possessed wonderful strength. On Christmas day, 1989, being surfeit. By ec, as in monkey. By ia, as in parliament. By ic, as in sieve. By o, as in parliament. By ic, as in sieve. By o, as in women. By ec, cenaritiel. By oi, as in to-toise. By ois, as in channels. By un, as in parliament. By it, as in gainea. By un, as in parliament by in, as in gainea. By un, as in parliament. By it, as in channels. By un, as in parliament. By it, as in gainea. By un, as in parliament. By it, as in abyse.

This yields a sum total of 19 symbols which are used to express the sound of short "i."

The third sound, that of simple "z," may be expressed as follows:

By s., as in as in seisons. By c. as in sufficient.

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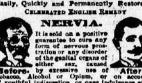
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If ye, as in suite to the fire.—Cincinnat Commercial Gazette.

Since its first introduction, Electric Bitters as in sold.

By ex, as in total Ey ex, as in account.

Thus "2" may be represented in 10 difference as in its Ey ex, as in total Ey ex, as in total.

By ex, as in total Ey ex, as in account.

Thus "2" may be represented in 10 difference as a suite of "0" may be expressed as follows:

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