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 *pin*	**m** as in *met*	**h** as in *hot*
b as in *bin*	**n** as in *net*	**l** as in *lot*
t[1] as in *tin*	**f**[2] as in *fat*	**j**[3] as in *jot*
d as in *din*	**v** as in *vat*	**w**[4] as in win
k as in *kin*		

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.

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[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.

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

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.

	K	C
Hamlet's soliloquy ('To be or not to be')	6	14
Othello's last speech (from 'Soft you')	5	1
Antony's Oration (from 'Friends' to 'mutiny')	13	27
"Ancient Mariner" (many *k*'s due to 'li*k*e' 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	19	52
	326	502

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 every-day 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

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[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, critiks, 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.*

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[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 *p*in, *b*in, *t*in, *d*in, *k*in, *m*et, *n*et, *f*at, *v*at, *h*ot**, *l*ot, *j*ot, *w*in, *g*ot, *s*et, *z*est, *r*ot. 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 speakers[3] the combination *ng*

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

(iv) *nj,* as in *singe (,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.

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[1] See 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 correspond-ing 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 rnedially (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 begin-ning 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**.

3--(C.64)

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 else-
where 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 substi-
tute *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 (b*et, 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), 11 (19 + -ly adverbs of adjectives in -1, 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), 11 (17), mm (7), nn (6), pp (4), rr (5), ss (6).
-ey: ck (4), 11 (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.

Native Words:	*Words from Greek or Latin:*
Mute consonants occur	
(*a*) initially—	
gn *(gnat,* etc., 6)	h *(hour, etc.,* t; 2nd part of
h (2nd part of compound, *shep*	compound, *exhaust,* etc., 8)
-herd, etc., 3)	*m*n (mnemonic)
kn (knave, etc., 21)	pn (pneumonia)
*w*h *(whole,* etc., 3)	*ps* *(psalm,* etc., 3)
*w*r *(wrap,* etc., 21)	*p*t *(ptomaine, ptero-)*
anomalous: *p*t (*ptarmigan*)	

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)-
m*b*   (*comb,* etc., 15)
gh   (*high*, etc., 19; *augh* 2, *eigh* 3,   mn   (autumn, etc., 8)
        igh, 4, *ough* 10)   rrh   (*catarrh, myrrh*)
h   (*ah,* etc., 6)

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

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

(*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*).

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[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

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

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.*