Atkinson (W. H.)

REPORT

ON

NOMENCLATURE & TERMINOLOGY

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By W. H. ATKINSON.

[From the Transactions of the American Dental Association.]

TO those who have carefully studied last year's report, prefatory remarks are unnecessary; but to those who have not seen it, some little detail may be a means of inviting patient and close attention to a subject which the world has boggled over for all time. My own preconceived preference for things old and accepted by teachers and scientists long stood in the way of my own consideration of a subject which seemed too deep and occult for ready apprehension by even the best efforts of the best minds. After much struggle to adequately express myself to my brethren about things clear to my own apprehension, with but slim acceptance, I have at length become convinced that the only successful method of arriving at a sure foundation for correct pronouncement of our mental labor is to pursue the following studies of basic science growing out of the discovery of universology.

Returning to the point of commencement in these new technicalities, as made in last year's report, further experience suggests one or two slight amendments in the form and use of the terms then employed. In describing the four grand universological varieties of Form: Punctiform, Liniform, Planeform, and Solidiform, it is found that the third of these—Planeform (form made up of planes or surfaces)—does not get the pronunciation which is intended, from this mode of spelling. It is apt to be called Planeform, in two syllables, while the spoken word is three syllables, like Liniform and Punctiform. This would be partially remedied by changing the connective vowel e to i, making Planiform; but such is the peculiar kinkiness of English spelling, that this change

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would cause another change in the sound of the vowel of the first syllable; and the word would then be pronounced as if its first syllable were the word *plan*. This would cause a false impression, and must be avoided. The true pronunciation is given thus, plane-i-form; but we cannot rely upon such an unusual method as the introduction of two hyphens. Fortunately there is a device which is not so violent as this. The English root word here is habitually spelled in two ways, *plane* and *plain*. This is one and the same word with variant spellings; but, as in the case of proper names, Clark and Clarke, or Smith and Smythe, a prejudice arises in favor of one or the other spelling, as the more aristocratic, so *plane* has obtained a sort of fixed preference, wholly without reason, as the geometric or scientific term, and *plain* is the democratic or ordinary orthography. We shall have, on this occasion, to conquer our prejudices and write the word in question Plainiform, in order to secure the desired pronunciation without resorting to hyphens. This is a fair instance of the infinite difficulties which we suffer from the unphonetic character of English spelling, and which we should escape if the spelling reform were to prevail.

It is not expected that these novel and precise new technicalities will be adopted and made familiar at once by more than the very few who make a specialty of the subject; but, being in existence, and having a philosophy, they may be taken up, one or two at a time, by authors who find themselves in straits to express their ideas more precisely than they are able to do by the use of the old terms, and thus gradually be introduced to the public. The old fountain-head of technicality has been the Greek language; the new fountain-head is the scientific universal language (Alwato) which the universologists are elaborating for this express purpose. A short account of what universology is, and of its methods of forming words, will not, therefore, be inappropriate.

Universology is the one science, embracing in a sense all other sciences, which grows out of the discovery of the fact that one and the same set of laws and principles underlies all the sciences, so that similar distributions are made, first of the universe or world itself into the fields or domains of the special sciences; and, then, of these particular fields, internally. The ground covered by each science is, in other words, amenable to the same general system of the division of its parts as that cov-

ered by any other science, a fact which opens the way to one universal system of scientific technicality. To conceive of this unity in the midst of the utmost diversity let us compare two departments of science so wholly dissimilar as the science of language and physiology (*i.e.*, macro-physiology, including anatomy, physiology, and hygiene). Both of these sciences concur in having a fundamental threefold division into 1. A stationary aspect or department, the investigation of the thing as it now is, or apart from any changes; 2. A transitory or motic aspect or department, the investigation of the changes which it undergoes from time to time, or moment to moment; and 3. A complete or perfect aspect resulting from the combining of the former two, and which makes the *whole*-th, or health aspect or view.

The first of these yields, in respect to language at large, the science of universal grammar or the logic of language, which is permanent or fixed in whatsoever language and at whatsoever stage of lingual development. This is, therefore, the osteology, or more largely, the anatomy of language. The second yields the developmentology and physiology of language, lingual history, etymology, etc., which are specially related to time and eventuation or the on-going in time—the *motic* as contrasted with the *static* aspect of things. Finally language has its diseases ("phonetic decay"—Max Müller, etc.), hence its pathology, and hence its therapeutics or restoration to health, and hence again its hygiene or its means of maintaining itself in health or *whole*-th, or, what is the same thing, in its normal condition.

On the side of macro-physiology it is now obvious that it is the anatomy, physiology and hygiene of living objects which are here so accurately repeated in the apparently unrelated region of the science of language. It is precisely the same in any other sphere. These differences of static, motic and dynamic (this last meaning potency or health condition), and other similar primal conditions of being, apply equally to every department of being, and consequently to every science. It is this fact, and the recent discovery of it, which render possible, and which *found*, the new science of Universology, *the one science which underlies and unites all the other sciences.*

To restate; for, in a matter so important and so new, a little repetition need not be shunned: It is the first of these universal

principles—Statism—which presides over, and is, as it were, concretely reproduced in anatomy; the second of them—Motism—which presides over and is concretely reproduced in physiology; and the third of them—Stata-Motism, Dynamism or *Tug*-f (for *tug*-th), whence *tough*ness, health or *whole*-th — which presides over, and is concretely embodied in, hygiene.

Not only do these three fundamental principles, statism or the spirit of rest, motism or the spirit of movement, and dynamism or the spirit of tug, exertion or effort (power and force), permeate the totality of every sphere of being, and of its appropriate science—language or living beings for instance—but they are all repeated, pivotally and centrally, in that which is pivotal and central within the given sphere. The verb is this pivotal or central object within the sphere of language, and man ("the word" or *verbum* in a mystical sense) is the pivotal or central object within the total sphere of living objects.

Usually it is said that the verb means *to be*, *to do*, or *to suffer*, (this last specification meaning *to be acted upon*, or *to be the recipient of an action*); but this is not quite the inclusive statement. Let us say rather, 1. *To be* (the neuter or static verb); 2. *To do*, to move objectively or toward the object (the active voice), or *to suffer*, movement subjectively or toward the subject (the passive voice) (phases of the motic or active verb); and 3. *To do and suffer*, action and counter-action, co-acting in a mutual reciprocity of strife; the reflective and reciprocal verb (he strikes himself, they strike each other).

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In respect to the new technicals recommended in last year's report based on the root *punct*, to denote roundish, point-like, minute objects or concepts, no change is found to be necessary. The following enlarged list is now submitted, along with a series of diagrams, which will be found, it is believed, remarkably adapted to illustrate both the histological evolution and the potency of the new system of technicalities to follow, by its own corresponding evolution, every step in the series:

· PUNCT-IT, a geometric point, an unpronounced atom.

• PUNCT-ID, an atom; the least pronounced portion of matter, as a concept.

PUNCT-IS, a flock of punctits; a group of geometric points; or, by license, of a minuter order of atoms; of lighter or

finer atoms (following the lead of the mathematicians who conceive different orders of the infinite); A MOLECULE (still, like the atom, uncognized by our visual sense).

Punct-iz, a flock of punctids; an aggregation of heavier or coarser atoms; A GRANULE, the first visible body under the lens.

Punctits (pl. punctitses), a pivoted or nucleated flock of thin or light atoms; an unpronounced corpuscle, *ghost-like.*

Punct-idz (pl. punctidzes), a pivoted or nucleated flock of heavy atoms; a pronounced corpuscle, body-like.

Punct-ish, the light filamentous corona surrounding a vacuole or empty space, implying an unrevealed central point.

Punct-izh, the heavy beamy corona, surrounding a vacuole, implying a revealed central atom.

Punct-it-sh, filamentous-radiance-bearing unpronounced atom.

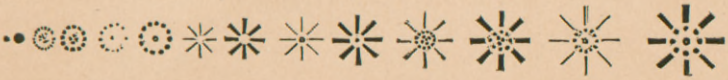
Punct-id-zh, filamentous-radiance-bearing pronounced atom.

Punct-is-sh, is punctis, *plus* filamentous radiancy; molecule, with filamentous corona.

Punct-iz-zh, is punct-iz, *plus* beamy radiancy; granule, with beamy corona.

NOTE.—These two words have for their plurals punct-is-shes and punct-iz-zhes. It is to be observed that Alwato, this new technical language, growing out of universology, provides words which, by their analogy, correspond with obscure or half-occulted objects by similar difficulties in the pronunciation. If, therefore, these two words are unpronounceable, except after phonetic training, so are these histological concepts, which they name, *unpronounced;* except after this close analytical treatment. The plural forms are a little less difficult, as mass-presentments are more *pronounced* than elementary units.

Punct-it-s-sh, filamentous-radiance-bearing corpuscle.

Punct-id-z-zh, beamy-radiance-bearing corpuscle.

COLLECTIVE EXHIBIT OF THE SYMBOLS.