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Editor:
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ON THE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY
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Dear Ivor:

I liked everything in those I.L.R. reviews of yours, but best of all I liked your "Who's hog or none." I'm more than happy to have a colleague in the simple straightforward push for a spelling as phonemic as skill and feasibility can make it. For the breakthrough his i/t/a is making in the primary school, I am all admiration --and cooperation--for Sir James, but straight-out wun-sound-wun-sien spelling would have come even more easily to the moppets and had a stronger missionary impact on their mummies and dads. Helen Bonemma's Kindergartners didn't need any ligatures or doubled consonants or C's or ck's or final y's or any other concessions to our present gross misspelling--except the few that WES now makes. And even so she used the schwa. I'm sorry that Dr. Dewey now finds it advisable to devise an "initial teaching" version of WES. Maybe the New Spelling Reform in Russia will deter him. If you haven't yet heard of it there are notes p 39, ILR #34--p343 in the April PHI DELTA KAPPAN--and in TIME March 8. Largely a matter of dropping double consonant--with i/t/a sticking them even in Verry and WES about to do so! "

I'm not much sold on this opposition of the public stuff. I put most of the blame on the personal interests of our educational moguls whose books and books and books would be undercut by spelling reform. And on the face-saving of the schools in general. That Ruth Strickland and the Nina Banton Smith she reviewed in this April Kappan would look silly if some educational earthquake--like that of Turkey's --should bring phonemic spelling into every grade of every school next September. Incidentally, the "Depth and Freshness" of this book is followed by my "GBS As An Advocate of Spelling Reform." There are other things in our line in this Kappan--if you haven't already, better look through it.

I've got to inform myself about those voice-operated machines you speak of in the last paragraph of your Torscript review. Where could I see their beginnings in action? I'm none too brilliant even on the sewing machine, and instinctively sheer away from anything mechanical, but I'm not blind to what is ahead of us. In any case could you write an article, either for the Bulletin or the ILR? I'm sure in either you could have 2000-3000 words--I'm sure, too, you could keep it simple enough for most of our readers to get. If the Bulletin, could you do it for the June Issue? If the ILR for #36? Mr. Hardin (who is much pleased that you are reviewing Wicz 'S Regularized for #35) asks if you can get it in by May? But I told him how occupied you are with so many fascinating things, and he said that, at the

on these machines

best, he could hold off a week or so, and at the worst, save the review for # 36. He definitely likes your work. I wonder if you could let me have a carbon. I don't want to just accidentally duplicate your ideas in whatever I write--I'd like to build on them. I think if we kept in fairly close touch, we might do something against this "compromising" with our wholly indefensible t.o.

Newell did see to it, didn't he, that you had a copy of Wicz's book? I honestly don't know how he gets so much done--our correspondence alone calls for an extra hand. Fortunately, he's the type which doesn't require eight hours sleep--and can keep working till midnight.

Best of everything to you and all your projects

Sincerely

Helen Bowyer

Helen Bowyer

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