

search sɜɪtʃ. This ɜɪ, which seems to result from the substitution of ɪ for ɜ, is occasionally found elsewhere, as in a record from Macon, Georgia, ʃɜɪkə; it is also reported from New Orleans and the Carolinas. It is suggested by a North Carolina record in which *hair* is pronounced hæɪ, with a faint ɪ taking the place of the ɜ. Curiously enough, this East Side speaker's ɔɪ diphthong in *choice*, *joist* is acoustically almost identical with his ɜɪ in *shirk*, etc.

These samplings were presented as suggestive of the possibilities for discovering and confirming historical relations between British and American English that should add materially to our knowledge of the development of English sounds and dialects—possibilities that will be greatly extended on the completion of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada.

61. Prof. R. RAMIREZ (Santiago, Chile): *The teaching of phonetics in Chile.*

Résumé

1. Chile was fortunate to have had the help and wise leadership of Dr RUDOLPH LENZ, the well-known German phonetician, in the teaching of modern foreign languages, both in her Secondary Schools and at the University.

2. Dr R. LENZ arrived in Chile under a Government contract in August 1889. He very soon introduced some kind of phonetic drill in the teaching of foreign languages (French, English and German) in the Secondary Schools of the country, and in 1902 opened a regular course of "General Phonetics" at the Instituto Pedagógico, which is the School of Education of the University of Chile. [The Secondary School teachers receive their higher education at the Instituto Pedagógico; here they get their University Diploma which allows them to compete for appointments in Secondary Schools.]

3. PAUL PASSY's *Petite Phonétique Comparée* was used as a textbook for Dr LENZ's course in the University, and many of the students in that class became members of the Association Phonétique Internationale or regular subscribers to the *Maître Phonétique*. During the period between 1889 and 1902, and as an extension to his course in the University, Dr LENZ delivered a number of public lectures on this subject, and wrote several pamphlets in explanation.

4. The knowledge acquired in the new studies of phonetics was used in Chile in three main ways: 1st, in teaching foreign languages in all the schools where this instruction was given; 2nd, in studying the "Chilean dialect" of the Spanish language and folklore; and 3rd, in studying "Mapuche", the language of the natives of the territory, the Araucanian Indians.

5. In 1915 a specialized course on English Phonetics (both theory and practice) and one on French Phonetics were added to the regular curriculum of the Instituto Pedagógico.

6. The good results of the learning of phonetics were soon made evident, and this in various ways: 1st, the teachers of foreign languages were enabled to master the principles of the so-called "Direct

Method" in language teaching, and use it in their classes with remarkable skill and good results. The clear improvement attained in this subject in the Secondary Schools throughout the country was recognized by school inspectors and other education authorities in their official reports: 2nd, with the collaboration of his class, Dr LENZ published some time in 1904, both in German and Spanish, the first part of his great dictionary of *Chilenismos* and dialectal expressions.¹ 3rd, there developed in Chile what may be termed a nationalistic literature in the fields of romance, the short story and the drama, in which domestic subjects, the Chilean countryside and the peculiarities of the lives of the peasant formed the centre of the plot. 4th, several works on Chilean folklore and collections of popular verse and sayings were published at this time. Among others, to mention only two of the most comprehensive and important ones, we could mention Mr RAMON LAVAL's *Chilean Refrains and Popular Tales of Chile*, and Mr JULIO VICUNA-CIFUENTES's *The Coa or Prison Slang of Thieves and the Underworld in Spanish America*.

7. Since 1925 there has been a noticeable change in this particular field of studies in Chile: 1st, due to new regulations issued by the education authorities for all Secondary and Elementary Schools, the direct method is being gradually replaced in the teaching of modern languages by other means of instruction; 2nd, languages (i.e. French, English, German or Italian) are no longer taught having both an educative or general aim in view as well as a utilitarian purpose, but it is evident that following some widely spread tendency of the times the second or practical aim is being emphasized; 3rd, the parents and education authorities wish the language masters to drill their pupils in reading (silent reading) and understanding the foreign tongue and that a minimum of time (or no time) should be devoted to any form of expression (oral or written), or in fact any other kind of learning and mental training; 4th, language teachers complain now more than before that the phonetic transcript is a true puzzle for young students and that the passage from phonetic script to ordinary spelling is a matter of great confusion to them, and accordingly they refuse to employ any such means of instruction in their class-work; 5th, this attitude is naturally reflected in the higher course of Phonetics in the University; fewer students take a real interest in this subject from the theoretical viewpoint, though they still maintain a certain amount of interest for the practical work in the specialized courses.

8. The point explained in no. 5 of the preceding items is vital to the future of phonetic teaching in Chile (and I presume elsewhere). I should venture to urge the Congress to give some time to its discussion, taking into account conditions prevailing in the world at the present moment.

¹ Imp. Cervantes, Santiago, 1904.