The New Pronoun.

Mr. Converse's suggestion of the word thou (that one), as a new and needed pronoun of the singular number and common gender, has attracted general attention. Some newspapers have contented themselves with a mere allusion to his letter, while others—such as the Commercial Advertiser of this city and the Boston Globe—see fit to comment.

Oakdale, Neb.

O. P. Hurford.

To the Editors of The Critic:

Will you permit a further brief contribution to the discussion concerning 'A New Pronoun?' Mr. Converse's suggestion of Thou, in The Critic of August 2, seems to me to be faulty, first, because it possesses no generic resemblance to He and She, the pronouns between which it is intended as a link; secondly, because its nominative and objective forms are identical; and thirdly, because (especially in writing) it is exceedingly likely to be mistaken for the second person singular, Thou. As overcoming each of these difficulties, and as combining succinctness with a due regard to the genius of our tongue, I suggest the following: nominative, Hi; possessive, His; objective, Hem. Sooner or later, a singular number and common gender pronoun must be invented. It is only a question of securing the best.


Francis H. Williams.

[An obvious objection to Mr. Williams's pronoun is the probability of its being mistaken, in its corresponding cases, for He, His and Him.]

80

The Critic and Good Literature

Number 33

part of the original dialogue was preserved, but there were many variations of a minor sort. The scene was changed from Richmond to Putney, and a new personage, Mr. Drencher, 'the great, healthy, florid, scarlet-whiskered' medical man, was added to the novel. The stage directions in 'The Wolves and the Lamb' are often curiously explicit. Here, for instance, is the author's careful description of the scene of 'Milliken's villa at Richmond,' where the whole action passes:—'Two drawing-rooms opening into one another. The late Mrs. Milliken's portrait over the mantelpiece; book-cases, writing-tables, piano, newspapers, a handsomely-furnished saloon. The back room opens, with very large windows, on the lawn and pleasure-ground; gate and wall, over which the heads of a cab and carriage are seen as persons arrive. Fruit and a ladder on the walls. A door to the dining-room, another to the sleeping apartments, etc. Before Captain Trenchit enters, the head of a