

**THE ASPIRATE, OR, THE
USE OF THE LETTER
'H' IN ENGLISH, LATIN,
GREEK AND GAELIC**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649530205

The Aspirate, or, the Use of the Letter 'H' in English, Latin, Greek and Gaelic by Geoffrey Hill

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEOFFRY HILL

**THE ASPIRATE, OR, THE
USE OF THE LETTER
'H' IN ENGLISH, LATIN,
GREEK AND GAELIC**

THE ASPIRATE



47.6.12

THE ASPIRATE

OR

THE USE OF THE LETTER "H"
IN ENGLISH, LATIN, GREEK
AND GAELIC

BY THE

REV. GEOFFRY HILL

VICAR OF EAST WITH WEST BARNHAM;
AUTHOR OF "ENGLISH DIOCESES"

London

T. FISHER UNWIN
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1902

[All rights reserved.]

P609
H54

PREFACE

ON informing a friend whose opinion was to be relied on that I intended to write something upon the Aspirate, I was strongly advised not to let my remarks appear in print until I knew what German scholars had to say on the subject. Accordingly I attempted to consult Eduard Sievers' *Grundzüge der Phonetik*, but was told that it was out of print. Not knowing when a new edition would be issued, I decided not to wait for it: it has, however, now been published,¹ and I have been enabled, through the kindness of Mr. Capel Pownall, to make use of it. I find that the method of forming the 'h' in the throat is fully discussed, a

¹ Leipzig, 1901.

subject which I have not treated, since, if I had, I should have treated it badly, but that nothing is said upon the improper dropping or the equally improper addition of h's, nor upon the use to which the letter is sometimes put in grammar and in the expression of a person's feelings. The reason, Mr. Pownall tells me, is simple, because the Germans never drop or add h's for any reason or under any pretext, though it must be stated that they are sometimes mute in the middle of a word in order to show that a syllable is long.¹ I must, therefore, qualify my statement made on p. 39 that in 1880 the German Government abolished certain h's as unnecessary: I now find that what was actually done was this—the Prussian Minister of Instruction abolished the 'h' in those words beginning with 'th' in which the 'h' had been mute.

My thanks are due and are here given

¹ "'H' is always aspirated except when it follows a vowel in the same syllable where it only serves to signify the protraction of the vowel. *St* and *sp* are as soft as in English. It would be a fault to pronounce these after the Swiss manner, namely, *scht* and *schp*" (Kaltschmidt's *German Dict.*).

to the Right Rev. the Bishop of Edinburgh ;
Dr. Law of the Signet Library, Edinburgh ;
the Rev. Dr. Keating, Chancellor of S. Mary's
Cathedral, Edinburgh ; the Rev. Dr. Bourne,
Canon and Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral ;
the Rev. H. Carpenter, Precentor of Salisbury
Cathedral ; Colonel Cox ; Mr. D. de Castro ;
Mr. A. R. Malden ; and Mr. G. E. Dartnell,
either for the stories with which they have
supplied me for the illustration of my points,
or for the advice which they have given me
as to books of reference. Nor must I omit
to thank Professor Mackinnon for the amount
of knowledge of Gaelic Grammar acquired at
his Lectures.

GEOFFRY HILL.