

WINDOW LIGHT

STRANGE it is that so many printing offices are content to stay in dark corners where the light of day hardly penetrates, or where, having a fairly good light at noon, darkness creeps on at four o'clock. The common defence that gas can be lighted whenever necessary, is not good. Gas light is expensive, and it is not as good a light as sun light, says *The American Bookmaker*. Corners are not lighted up, and in the remoter spaces, if a line is needed, the gas must be lighted and turned out again. Were natural illumination sufficient, a greater day's work could be obtained, the men would get along better and the cost would be less. It is for these reasons that all progressive printers try to get light on two sides of their rooms, and three if possible.

Unless the walls are extremely high, the windows numerous and penetrating to the very top, there is hardly light enough 25 feet from a window opening, except when the sun's rays come directly in. Ceilings higher than 12 feet are difficult to get, and window openings for more than one-third of the wall are very infrequent. The printer must therefore take the best space he can get, and while this is hardly ever as good as he ought to have, it will certainly be found far better than many offices possess at the present time.

The width of a printing office ought not to exceed 50 feet, with windows on each side. Presses can be arranged in two rows with this width, giving them also all other facilities. The windows should always rise considerably above the top part of the cases, six feet, or the top part of the presses, eight feet. The taller they are the more light passes over, and it is only thus that the centre of the room can be lighted. It is better in the composing room to have the windows high than wide. More useful light will come from a window twelve feet by three, than from one ten feet by four, although the area of the latter is larger. The centre of the window should be the centre of the alleyway between the frames. There should be no great difficulty in our large cities in obtaining buildings such as are needed, as all modern structures pay some attention to these requirements. In many old-fashioned towns, however, there is a scarcity of such edifices. Skylights can be put in in many cases, and it will often happen that, without doing injury to the framework, windows can be made considerably higher. In dark rooms walls should be whitewashed, and workmen forbidden to paste hand-bills or posters upon them, as they absorb and do not give out light.

Concurrently with the lighting, provision should be made for ventilation. A pipe, 18 inches in diameter, ascending from the top of a room to the roof

and a foot or so higher, will take away more air and create a freer circulation than a window six times its size at the side of the room. To give the ventilator its due effect, raise a window or two in the room and open the door to the shaft. This should be as near the centre as possible. A skylight, in which one of the windows is open, will have the same effect; but, of course, rain must be guarded against. Pure air is very necessary to lively work.

NEWSPAPERS vs. BOOKS

THE great question of newspaper vs. book as rivals for supplying the literary crib of reading animals throughout the United States is one of perennial interest, though it has been threshed out in many an article. The newspaper syndicates distribute a vast amount of high-class literary material to the newspapers throughout the country, and the man who never reads anything but the newspaper can now enjoy the productions of many of the best writers in his favorite organ. In addition to what the newspaper steals or buys direct from the author, the total result makes a tolerably good showing of contemporary literature. It is only when we look at the statistics of newspaper circulation that it is possible to realize the tremendous rivalry of the newspaper and the book. Rowell's "Press Directory" for 1890 shows in the United States and Canada 17,760 periodicals, with a circulation of 41½ millions. Of these 1,260 are weeklies, 2,000 monthlies, and 1,536 dailies, with a circulation of 6,650,000. The yearly issue of all periodicals is about 3,500 millions, or an average of 267 periodicals per year to every five persons, or five per week to every family. In 1883 there were 456 Sunday papers; in 1890, 650; of these 294 are not printed on Sunday, and not always sold on Sunday. Of the remainder, 151 are issued seven days a week, and all but 20 of these are morning papers. Two hundred and five dailies come out on Sunday, but not on Monday. Only 356 of the 1,552 dailies issue Sunday editions. Seven newspapers have a circulation of over 100,000 per day; six of these have Sunday editions. Of course it is the Sunday editions that mostly affect to print what might be called literature. While much of this is rubbish, much of it is also of superior excellence. That the Sunday newspaper cuts very seriously into the circulation of the magazine and of the book is a fact which does not admit of debate. The tendency is swelling into results of greater proportions each year, and there seems to be no cure for it. Perhaps the ultimate result will be to weed out the smaller book publishers, and compel the others to depend mainly for their profits on the more important works, which the cultivated classes will care to put on their book-shelves.—*International Bookseller*.