

which causes some phonographic form to be taken for something else.

In the reporting profession there is a wonderful diversity of knowledge required. Chemistry, however, would be of little value to an amanuensis, or book-keeping to a reporter in the House of Commons; while with the newspaper reporter engaged in miscellaneous work no knowledge can come amiss. Each person should be well acquainted with the subjects that may be likely to come before him. Every effort should be made to attain a degree of accuracy that will render errors impossible, and thus raise the standard of the value of Phonography.

SHORTHAND FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES.

EVERY year adds proof, by the constantly increasing demand for it, how indispensable in a modern education is a knowledge of rapid writing. The young by all means should acquire it. It may be used by the author in his study, the editor in his "sanctum," the clergyman in his library, the lawyer in his office—in fact, everywhere that writing is needed, the simplicity and dispatch of shorthand make its value apparent. The beginner should determine, at the outset, whether or not he will, for a time at least, do verbatim writing. If he wishes to do this, he must expect to give much time and close attention to it. The man or system that promises verbatim speed in a few weeks' time is unworthy of confidence. It is useless to expect to be a good reporter and follow some other business at the same time. Reporting is a profession of itself, and requires the undivided attention of the person following it. If, however, the beginner simply wishes relief from longhand in his daily writing, is content with a rate of speed that gives a fully written and absolutely legible manuscript, a style that is easy to learn, write, read and remember, let him take up the simplest style, master it thoroughly, and depend for speed upon perfect familiarity with the word-forms used, and the greatest facility in their execution, as in longhand, and he will gain his object more easily and quickly than if he seeks it through shorter word forms, which must necessarily be more difficult to learn and read. Very few people need to become verbatim reporters; every one, however, having much writing to do, can use a simple style of shorthand to advantage.—*Hill's Manual.*

THE VARIOUS SHORTHAND SYSTEMS.

By George T. B. Gurnett, Toronto.

THERE is, of course, no royal road to the successful acquisition of shorthand; but as to the existence of such a road, there is apparently a wide-spread delusion. "Which is the best system?" "Which is the easiest?" are questions which intending beginners are

apt to trouble themselves about altogether too much. My reply to the first question has always been that to it there could be no satisfactory answer—that first-class writers were never likely to agree upon this point, but each maintained that *his* favorite system was the best, whether it might be Isaac or Benn Pitman's, Graham's or Munson's—that although I preferred Graham's myself, and considered it the best on the whole, there were others, equally competent to judge, who placed the other system above Graham's in point of worth; and the fact that each system had as its advocates men of superior ability in the profession, proved that all of them were good, and that a choice to the really earnest student was, after all, a matter of secondary consideration.

As to which is the easiest system—knowing what I do of the differences between them—I have always said that whichever was adopted, it would require patience and application to thoroughly master the art, and that success lay far more with the student himself than in the choice of any particular system. Early in 1860, I learned stenography from a member of the *Colonist* reporting staff—a style of writing long since discarded, because of its great inferiority to phonography—yet my tutor was so proficient in the use of this awkward and unphilosophical method of taking down speeches, that he was undoubtedly one of the best reporters on the continent. Some men will succeed with any system, while others will invariably fail—in the latter case the want of success being due to the man himself, and not to the particular author whose work he may have undertaken to master.

REPORTING IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

By Henry Pitman.

THE first unofficial Parliamentary reporter was Sir Symonds d'Ewes, M.P., and the earliest systematic attempt to report the debates was made in 1706. It was done surreptitiously, and hon. members complained that it was a breach of privilege. The newspaper of that day was issued at uncertain intervals. The addition to its small quota of news of an outline of Parliamentary news, with an occasional speech almost *in extenso*, marked an epoch in the history of the "fourth estate" of the realm. Sir Thomas Wynnington protested against this innovation, and several members of the House implored the House to "put it down." Sir William Wyndham, all honor to his name, contended that the people had a right to know what their representatives were doing. The House considered the matter, and resolved that it was a "high indignity to this House for any newspaper or printer to publish an account of its debates, and the House will proceed with the utmost severity against any and all such offenders." In 1731, Edward Cane commenced the *Gentlemen's Magazine*, and published Parliamentary reports under fictitious