

A CORRESPONDENT from Cincinnati, who visited the Decorative Art Rooms in that city, says: "Among other articles of *vertu* was a dainty little *tele-a-tele* set by Miss Agnes Pitman. I did not see Miss Pitman, but was introduced to her father, who is known as a shorthand man and author of a manual on that distracting pastime, phonography, but now better designated as the Professor of Wood-Carving in the School of Design, and as the one who had his wife cremated. He is an elegant gentleman, small, dark-eyed, and snowy-haired; dresses faultlessly, converses well, and has an eye that takes in every turn and curve of beauty. He lives, with his only daughter, in a pleasant home in the suburbs, and the pair are devoted to Art and Art-work."

FOREIGN.

The *Reporter's Magazine* has appeared in London, Eng. It is edited by E. J. Nankivell, F. R. H. S.

The *Yorkshire Phonographer* has suspended after issuing four numbers, owing to the ill-health of the editor, Mr. J. Rhodes.

Prof. Dr. F. W. ZEIBIG, of Dresden, Germany, has sent us a file of the *Correspondenzblatt* of the Royal Stenographic Institute for 1880. It is printed in German, and consists of reviews of the various new schemes of Stenography that are ever coming to the front, and the general conclusion is that none of them is (equal to Gabelsberger's—the orthodox.

At a recent Land League meeting held near Dublin some Government reporters were detected on the platform. A number of men leaped upon the structure, seized the unfortunate quill-drivers and threw them to the ground. A riot ensued, during which several shots were fired, but no one was hurt. At length, the constabulary formed a ring around the reporters with fixed bayonets, while they continued taking notes.

THE PHONOGRAPH.

THE EXPERIENCE OF MR. WM. W. OSGOODBY, AS RELATED AT THE N. Y. STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION.

It is well known that this invention of Mr. Edison was heralded with many prophecies of its usefulness, and not the least of its benefits to mankind was that of putting Stenography among the lost arts; and should that prove true, the dire result would be that all Stenographers would be forced to seek some *honest* means of livelihood. Upon enquiry, I learned that it was intended that on the first day of October the company controlling the patent should put upon the market the immense number of seventy thousand machines, and every man was to be his own reporter. The prospect

was discouraging to the last degree, but remembering that the first blow is half the battle, I determined to purchase and become familiar with the wonderful instrument and its use in the court-room, hoping that when the day should come in which we should be compelled to lay down our pens, I might be able to secure a monopoly of the new business in my district. After an immense wear and tear of my patience, to say nothing of the many expensive experiments and contrivances which became necessary, I not only became satisfied that there was no substantial reason for our apprehensions, but I had the pleasure of discovering an entirely new application of the machine, and one which had rendered me independent of further labor in the Stenographic profession. For the purpose of relieving you from any future fear in regard to the threatened danger, I now proceed to make you acquainted with the result of my experiments. In regard to the important discovery which I have made, I trust that for the present you will consider whatever I may say as strictly confidential.

After an extended correspondence with the inventor, and considerable impatience on my part, I at last received the instrument, and at once set myself to work to learn its peculiarities and use. It would be a needless waste of your time to detail the many little annoyances which arose at this stage of my experience; it is sufficient for me to say that after a careful examination of the thing, and a patient perusal of the instructions sent with it by Mr. Edison, I thought I might venture with it into court. I did so, and, arranging the machine for work, I waited in breathless anxiety for the commencement of proceedings which should test its usefulness in actual reporting. The trial began, and the clockwork of the machine was started, and I sat back in my chair confident that I had at last discovered an easy way of doing hard work. Within six or eight minutes, however, I saw that the tin-foil on my cylinder was full—a difficulty I had never once thought of providing against. Here was an insuperable obstacle to my hopes for that day, and the only thing I could do was to chuck the thing under the table and resume my pen.

The next morning saw me again at the machine, provided with an abundance of foil sufficient, I thought, to last through the entire session—though I must confess that I began to feel dubious at the prospect. In a few moments it was necessary to ask the Judge to suspend until I had a new layer of foil in place on the cylinder. This done, I again started up, and it seemed that but a moment passed before I was again under the necessity of stopping the proceedings for the same purpose. This was too much, and again the instrument was put away, and I took up my pen, resolved to at once abandon the attempt as impracticable.

But I kept up a thinking. It seemed to me that there ought to be some way to make the thing work, and at last I solved the problem, as I imagined, and I ordered from the inventor a