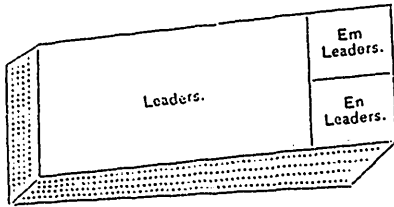


Leader Boxes,

constructed after the pattern here shown, will be found to possess advantages that cannot but commend their general adoption :



A shallow cigar-box will cost nothing, and a few minutes work will convert it into an excellent time-saver. The angle is cut to assist the eyes and hand when the leaders are getting low.

In offices where space is crowded, and each man is confined to a single stand, the composition of leader matter is accompanied with serious drawbacks, the common practice being to spread the leaders on a piece of paper or to scatter them through the lower case; in others they are laboriously hunted for in the upper boxes of the cap. case, where they have been indiscriminately thrown in distribution—in the first instance necessitating frequent bunglesome shiftings or loss of time in picking out the surplus upon completion of the take; in many cases, one or two having buried themselves they are overlooked, and when resurrected necessitate a trip to the font case.

The leader box may be placed at the extreme right of the case, and can be easily pushed up or down as occasion requires, the frame causing it to slide with ease, and will prove a decided change for the better, besides doing away with the slovenly practice of piling the cap. case.

Rule Cutters

are a decided improvement on the *shears*, but all that I have seen are far from perfection. The requirements of rule work demand a cutter with an *adjustable self-regulating movable gauge and clamp*—especially is this addition desirable where multitudinous short pieces of rule are called for. With the cutters now in use it is almost an impossibility to set the gauge to and cut rules of three ems brevier and smaller, though this can be done by setting it to long lengths and *slipping the rule*, using for feeders a combination just a trifle smaller than the desired width to be cut. The attachment suggested could be placed

on the upper side of the hollow frame and worked by the action of the blade, the clamp accommodating itself to the movement and sliding on a rod.

Another defect in most cutters is, after cutting a half-dozen pieces from the same strip of rule, no matter how carefully handled, the remainder will be slightly beveled; and unless this is guarded against by trimming the strip occasionally, the pieces last cut will be found unserviceable in the particular job for which they were prepared.

Let the blade be perfectly set before leaving the manufacturer's hands and this inconvenience will not attach to new cutters, though constant use will eventually bring about the same condition. This evil should not be permitted to stand and grow worse, but should be corrected at once by having the blade ground *true* and the die reset. If the cut rule is left with a strong beard running its full depth it is because the blade is dull, the die loose or worn, the lever nut loose, or a combination of the three causes. If the beard be slight, the most expeditious manner of removing it and dressing the rule is to draw it gently toward the person across the upper-corner edge of the blade (a part *never* touching the rule in cutting), describing a half-circle in so doing.

Little Hell.

Broken spaces, scattered through the case, is one of the many annoyances a methodical printer has to contend with.

Some men are cursed with the pernicious habit of breaking and bending spaces in justification. If given full scope, one of these destructives will sprinkle every case in the office with evidences of his "blacksmithing," for it is well known that one out of every three such spaces will escape the eyes in distribution. Those which are detected are generally thrown on the floor or in the quadrat box, and little by little the font is depleted, while the refuse swept out becomes a total loss.

"Small beginnings make large endings," and a pasteboard box, about 3x5 inches, resting on two nails driven in the side of the frame, with another nail at the foot to prevent slipping, will be the instrumentality by which many pounds of old metal will be saved for the foundry. Battered quadrats, type and spaces, and rule and lead clippings could be as easily dropped therein as thrown on the floor. The weight added to "hell" in one year, by emptyings of "little hell," would be a matter of astonishment to the entire office. This box would also be serviceable in transferring sorts from one case to another.

Blank Pages,

constructed of metal furniture or quotations, are an expensive luxury, especially where the pro-