

Professional and business men are constantly annoyed by amateur stenographers, who, having paid a large price for instruction in the art, are thoroughly incapable of practising it efficiently. The community should be saved from such imposition. Law schools are under the supervision of the state. Medical colleges are not qualified to open their doors to students without license. No person is permitted to begin the practice of law without a diploma from a law school recognized by the law, or, in lieu of it, without examination before duly-qualified experts. The same rule holds concerning the profession of medicine, and the compounding of prescriptions, and the extracting of teeth. It is not clear why the stenographer, upon whose capacity and integrity the gravest interests often depend, should not also be brought within the pale of the law. It is obviously the true good of stenography to seek that responsibility. The institutions in which the art is taught are often conducted by people little better than adventurers, for it is well known that many advertised "professors" of stenography are utterly incapable of making a trustworthy report of the slowest speech ever spoken at a funeral. They carry on the avocation of "professors" as a means of earning the livelihood they could not hope to acquire as experts. This class of charlatans should be driven into some other field where they would enjoy less opportunity for mischief at the expense of the entire community.

Only such schools of stenography as are managed by known experts should be licensed: only the diploma of such schools should entitle a stenographer to employment; or, in the absence of a diploma, no shorthand writer should be tolerated in making legal records who has not passed examination before a properly-constituted board of examiners. There are not in the country to-day nearly enough really trustworthy stenographers. There is an army of pretending stenographers who are infesting the offices of newspapers, lawyers, and merchants, and who are incapable of doing the simplest work of their craft in a perfectly reliable manner. The sooner they are gotten rid of, the better. No time should be lost in effecting a beginning toward a uniformity in notes. When that has been accomplished, the other reform will be easily brought about.

AUTHORSHIP.

(From the *Literari Lader*.)



TO many young men literature has great attractions. The desire to write an article, or a book, which shall be talked about is strong in everyone with a taste for literature; and under certain conditions it is a very laudable desire. It is additionally praiseworthy when the object is to communicate knowledge, or to promote the welfare of humanity. The impulse to write is unquestionably wide spread, and some questionable means have been taken to gratify the ambition

of those who desire to see themselves in print. An Association calling itself "The Literary Production Committee" was recently advertised, and those who desire to enter the pleasing field of literature without encountering those stumbling-blocks to genius and progress—"neglect and prejudice," were told that they would find in that Committee "a guide, philosopher, and friend." The principal objects of the Committee were stated to be:—1. The careful perusal by one or more members of every MS. submitted; 2. Advice as to construction of plot and style of diction; 3. Correction and revision by competent authors of standard reputation; 4. The introduction of suitable contributions to the editors of the leading magazines and journals; 5. The publication of such works as the Committee thought would pay. Ladies and gentlemen were invited to become honorary members of the Committee to pay three guineas entrance fee and subscribe two guineas. The "advantages" of becoming honorary members were stated to be: 1. That all MS. forwarded by members will be read, and advice and revision given free of charge; 2. Their contributions will have priority of consideration and publication; 3. A copy of every work published by the Committee will be forwarded, gratis; 4. All stationery, music, books, publications, will be procured for members at cost price. The Committee evidently did not receive many applications for membership, for they abolished the entrance fee, and reduced the subscription to one guinea.

Another Association of a similar nature is styled, "The British Literary Association," and its object is stated to be: To facilitate the publication of high-class literature by assisting authors (members) with monetary advances from the funds of the Association for the publication of their works. To all applicants for admission a membership form is forwarded, and a request to return it to the President with a fee of two guineas!

We do not assert that in all Associations are swindles, but we do advise caution in dealing with them, and especially with Committees; for one man may have a conscience, but a Committee rarely has. Writing in *Social Notes*, one who has fallen a victim to a specially-worded fraud, said:—

"Some years ago I purchased shares in a magazine which was brought out as a proprietary magazine. It appeared to be a *bona fide* concern, was well got up, had the usual staff of directors, managing director, auditors, etc., and I am bound to say that the letter of agreement, and the liabilities of shareholders strictly limited to their shares, was carried out, at least as far as I was individually concerned. The company started with a flourish of trumpets, with the promise of an unusually large percentage for the shareholders, and with many good but utterly unattainable objects in view. The shares had to be paid partially on application, partially on allotment, and the remainder by calls made at not less than fourteen days' notice. I paid my shares up as arranged, had my