

Pencils used by stenographers should be of such hardness or softness to permit them to make light and heavy stenographic symbols and shading, without any effort. Did you ever consider that point in buying pencils for stenographers or do you use "any old thing"?

While on this subject of stenographers we should refer to the use of commercial phonographs in law offices. The idea is new—five or six years—but the method seems to have been successfully tested, and hundreds of machines are used in mercantile offices in the United States and Canada. A special advantage claimed for these machines is that the user is absolute master of his time; he can dictate at any hour of the day or night; at any rate of speed; a train of thought may be carried through to its conclusion without being broken by constant interruption when the rate is too rapid for the stenographer. This mechanical recorder should also be advantageous to a lawyer writing, say, an opinion, where the finding and citing of cases takes some time. Another advantage claimed is that dictation given in this way—at the moment when the subject is fresh in his mind and in absolute privacy—is likely to be better constructed and more concise. It will also be seen that the presence of a stenographer is not necessary, thus doubling the working capacity of the typewriter, besides saving one's own time. Moreover, a knowledge of stenography is not at all essential. The typewriter operator can transcribe at any speed she desires, can have a word or a sentence or the whole letter repeated as many times as she wishes for the purpose of comparing the dictation with the transcription, thus ensuring accuracy. Eight or ten letters can be put on a cylinder, and the records are shaved down and used again about 100 times. There are a number of other supplementary arguments used, but the refrain of them all is that "40 per cent." of the present expenses in handling one's correspondence and getting out other typewritten matter is saved. Opportunity for testing the truth of all these statements is usually given by the agents of the manufacturers by arranging for a trial of the machine at your office. The writer knows of several companies manufacturing these machines,—if you are interested, look up their advertisements in nearly any magazine and write them a line for particulars. The method is a business short-cut. It seems