

Magazines of the world will be available for examination.

Life-size Crayon Portraits of Phonographic Authors, and cabinets and carte-de-visites of noted nographers, will be displayed.

MR. WATTERS' REPORTING NOTES.

[In sending the original pencil notes which are transferred in *fac-simile* on page 41. Mr. Watters writes!:-

"On several occasions I have noticed the wonderfully precise reporting notes of some contributors to your journal, and, while admiring the unusual command of pencil which produced them, I cannot help thinking that for the satisfaction of those who look to you for practical hints it would be well if extracts could more frequently be given from ordinary note books, taken at the writer's best rate of speed, and therefore showing how nearly ILLEGIBLE average notes must be when a rapid speaker is faithfully followed. I fear the only claim to attention in the enclosed pages will be the badly formed characters they contain, yet I have chosen them from about the centre of a half hour "take," the average speed per minute being one hundred and seventy words. I must add that they were written from dictation, and to me, when reading my notes, were easily deciphered, though to some who may read them, should you think them of use, they will appear sadly mutilated. I might call your attention to the few phrases used in these notes. I have insensibly drifted into the habit of writing single characters even when hotly pressed. The practice may seem objectionable to some, but to others who are now worrying over their phrase-books it may bring some comfort."

ORIGINAL TEXT OF MR. WATTERS' NOTES.

On the contrary, Daniel O'Connell stood up in his place in parliament, denied in the strongest possible way the charges made against him from beginning to end, and courted the strictest investigation either before Parliament or by a Committee of Parliament. A select committee was appointed, and the strictest investigation took place before the committee; the committee reported that Daniel O'Connell had committed no offence contrary to the law of the land or the strictest rules of Parliamentary honor, and Daniel O'Connell escaped without a stain on his high character. The hon. gentleman will find in the journals and debates of Parliament another case in which a petition was presented against another eminent Irishman, Mr. Butt. In that case the petitioner complained that Isaac Butt had agreed with the RAJAHPOOR of SCINDIE, an Indian Prince, to prosecute a claim that he had against the English Government, in the House of Commons; that in that respect his conduct was unbecoming a member of Parliament, a man of honor and a gentleman. What did Isaac Butt do under the circumstances; resist the investigation and deny the competency of Parlia-

ment to deal with him? Nothing of the kind. Mr. Butt got up in his place and denied with all the emphasis he possibly could that he was guilty of the charges laid against him.

EXAMINATIONS IN SHORTHAND.

In the July WRITER we gave an outline of the test examinations which it is proposed to institute in England for the purpose of furnishing students with a certificate of phonographic ability.

Mr. Nankivell tells of some test examinations for certificates for commercial knowledge at Liverpool, under the auspices of the union of Lancashire and Cheshire institutes, in which 27 candidates entered for the examination in phonography. These examinations consisted of speed test, transcription test, and accuracy test. A passage of 262 words was dictated in five minutes, or at the rate of about 52 words a minute. The passage was transcribed by one writer in twelve minutes, and by the others in fifteen, seventeen, twenty and twenty-six minutes respectively. The editor adds that the phonographer who could not pass this simple examination must be a very new hand at his work, or else a perfectly useless duffer. And as the examination is for commercial purposes it seems to him that the test is far too easy. To grant a certificate on such terms must be, he thinks, misleading for commercial purposes, to a very great extent; indeed, he cannot conceive what would be the use of a shorthand-clerk who could not write faster than 50 words a minute. Then follow some statements of importance:-

"Speed in the home test is most deceptive. The man who can do his hundred words a minute easily at home, finds himself entirely at sea when trying a speaker of about 80 words a minute. We have seen a whole batch of phonographers completely put out of time with dictation at a hundred words a minute, when every one of them thought to do the work easily, and not one of them could furnish a fairly respectable transcript, and many of them old phonographers. But it is a very different thing to test for one hundred words a minute and to test for 50. The man who can do only 50 is of little use to commercial offices, in our opinion; for the man who can cover only 50 words a minute has not got under way for speed; he has to do the heaviest work of all in getting up to the 100. Although much of the work of an office may be dictated at even as low a speed as 50, though we have never heard any such thing, the dictator would soon tire of having to pin himself down to that pace. Many men can cover that amount of ground with ordinary longhand. Most first-class telegraph clerks will take press matter and write it at that rate. Therefore, to test for certificate in shorthand at such a slow speed, does seem putting the certificates at a very low and valueless figure."

In a later number of the *Magazine* the editor