

perience has proved—have, without perusal, thrown away letters typed with such characters, under the impression that they were common printed circulars.

This, again, offers food for thought: that the better the wording, arrangement and layout of a letter is, and the more correctly and smoothly it is typed, the more likely is it to look like a 'form' letter and and to be mistaken for one, especially when it is sent to or received from a stranger. "This truth", says a writer in the *Scientific American*, "has so wrought on some who have felt aggrieved at finding themselves 'taken in' by 'imitators', that it has been suggested each writer of genuine letters should send an affidavit of genuineness to accompany his communication."

But even this would hardly be sufficient, for concurrently with the effort to make typewriter script look like the ordinary, the inventors have been working on a printing machine which will turn out an unrecognizable imitation of a letter written on the typewriter.

The result of the double effort is that so well do printers imitate type-writing, and so well can typewriting be done to imitate printing, that any distinction which may have formerly existed between printers' characters and epistolary type has been submerged in the rising tide of imitation.

The illustration herewith shows the perfection to which the typewriter has played its part in the game of imitation.

Civil Service Journalism.

Probably no profession in the world contains a larger proportion than the civil service of men able to write clearly and forcibly. Civil service journalism—though still to be classed as amateur—should compare more than favourably with that of any other body.

But if this important asset of ours is to be utilized to the fullest it must avoid strenuously at least the most blatant vices of the amateur. Training and experience are nowhere more important than in journalism—little though that fact may be appreciated. Breadth of mind, the recognition of diversity in opinion, the correct estimation of importance in facts, the renunciation of omniscience and infallibility, the avoidance of personalities and mere "slagn-whanging"—these are all marks of the journalist as opposed to the mere man who can write, however fluently.

This paper, while claiming no higher rank than that of the amateur, proposes to keep these high qualities of the "real thing" before it always—as marks to aim at and to derive help from in spite of misses. It has always avoided wrangling as below its own level and that of its clientèle,—at least it has tried to do so. Recrimination is the easiest stuff in the world to grind out—and about the weakest. The knocker is the cheapest of sports—if he is a "sport" at all. The fortunes of the civil service depend upon united action, upon the prevalence of the spirit of give and take, upon ceaseless effort to plan and direct policies in wholesome contact of mind with mind. Still more, they depend upon hard work in the common cause. There will always be differences of opinion—and nothing could be healthier. But such differences should not create dissension. The Civil Service organisations have only one thing to fear—faction.