

Phonography caused imitations and other systems were quickly created. These systems differed very little from Pitman at first, but in time, systems were invented which were 'things of themselves,' although in a general way, constructed upon Pitman's principles of phonetics. These systems have been steadily improved upon until shorthand, instead of being tedious, difficult, and uninteresting as it was some years ago, has become a very pleasant and entertaining subject to learn.

In fact what is more entertaining to study than shorthand?

It is a study in which after you commence, you always desire to forge ahead. When you are learning the principles of it, you hasten onward, to discover 'what next.' When you commence the practice of it, you keep vigorously practicing to see how many words you can write per minute. Starting with 100 words per minute, you slowly creep up to 110 much to your delight; this causes you to practice still harder until you can write 120. How satisfied you feel when you are able to write 150 words per minute! But that mysterious element of shorthand which has urged you to that speed, urges you on still harder than before, and if you are destined to be a lightning reporter, you keep practicing and practicing until 200 words or more are reached.

After the principles are learned, we all know that speed is attained by practice—good, hard practice—and, if we attain high speed, a very large amount of practice. The opinion that practice alone will enable almost any person, with the average requirements, to attain 150 words per minute, but that for a higher speed they must have the talent besides the practice in them, is not quite right. They must have the talent and the practice in them when they begin, and if they have not, they will never reach 150 words. When they reach 150 words, it is surely evidence enough that they have the talent and they are able to use it to attain a higher speed. The whole thing is practice—energetic and persistent and tireless practice. Perhaps a hundred years ago or more, when the systems were so intricate and had so many rules and principles to learn, hard study was needed for a long period, but even then it was practice that developed speed, and with the easily learned and geometrically derived systems of today there is a freer scope for practice, and speed is

sure to be obtained if the person "keeps everlastingly at it."

The world has progressed in shorthand the same as it has in other fields, and the extremely difficult, slow, and illegible systems of the past have been succeeded by the many easily learned, speedy, and legible systems of today.

The famous Dr. Johnson once said: 'Shorthand merits a much higher rank among the arts and sciences than is commonly allotted to it. Its usefulness is not confined to any particular science but is universal.' Shorthand, besides being a theoretical science of much value (many great scholars have learned shorthand, or at least the principles of it), is also of an extremely practical value. Its use is general not only in all lines of business, but in all parts of the world. Prof. William McDevitt, formerly of Washington, D. C., but now of Chehalis, Wash., the well-known author of 'Fono-Stenography,' very truthfully remarks in the first edition of his shorthand manual that 'As long as there are courts, as long as there are news papers, as long as there is commerce, shorthand writers will be in demand, and with the increasing number and importance of courts and newspapers and business offices, the demand for writers of a legible shorthand will be steadily enlarged.'

Stenographers are a necessary and very useful part of the business world and will be for some time to come. Every stenographer can well be proud of his profession for it is a medium, which in most cases gives him a life of success because it broadens the mind and creates industry and quickness of thought and action."

ROY W. MC REYNOLDS.

CONCENTRATE YOURSELF.

Get yourself choke-bored; you scatter too much. There are shotguns that scatter to such an extent that they accomplish nothing; they bring down no game. The remedy is to have the gun choke-bored. Genius is concentration of effort; method and order in work. Many a genius fails of recognition because he scatters. — *Atchison Globe*.

Persist, persevere, and you will find most things attainable that are possible.

CHESTERFIELD.