

The Printer's Miscellany.

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CONTENTS.

	Page.
Brass Rule.....	6
Editorials.....	10, 11, 12, 13
History of the Press.....	13
Poetry—"The Type".....	14
Miscellaneous.....	14
News of the Craft.....	15
Miscellaneous and Advertisements.....	16

BRASS RULE.

There is no class of material which a printer uses that is as expensive as Brass Rule; and there is nothing sells for less when an old office is disposed of. All proprietors of long experience can look back over the years gone by, and say, with truth, that Brass Rule has been a very important item in the list of necessary expenses of the office. If this is true, it is deserving and worthy of an article in this magazine.

The usual manner of buying Brass Rule is well known. Mr. John Jones comes in with an order for some labels *just such a size*, and with a border line *just like copy*. There may not be but two or three hundred wanted, but the printer has to obtain the rule all the same, mitre it, work the job, and then lay the rule by, in hopes it will come in play for the same job sometime in the future. This little game, as it might be called, is played upon the printer several times each week all through his experience, and as a result, he can, in the course of time, point to an aggregate amount spent for Brass Rule that would be really startling.

As personal property to represent this large amount paid out, he has literally nothing to show for it; set after set is mitred to a peculiar size, or out of an odd-faced Rule, mitres worn and broken, or what is generally worse than all else, not tied up in sets, but lying around loose in a heterogeneous mass, which, from that fact alone, renders them almost useless, hence more new Rule is ordered.

This trouble has been realized by our type foundry, and a remedy was supposed to have been found in what is termed "Labor Saving Rule." But in these is not found the cure, for the reason that the slightest wear shows up all the joints very plainly; furthermore, in small

forms in which it is used, there is that lack of stiffness and good shape always given by mitred sets.

The result of this expensive experience has induced almost all large offices to adopt a new, and to commence with, costly, system for Brass Rule. It is this: they decide upon four or five styles of Rule which are commonly used, then order a large quantity and have it mitred to *pieces*. Generally they run from ten to fifty picas, perhaps omitting every other pica. It will be seen at once what an advantage this plan has over all others; for, having perhaps a dozen pieces of each length, and each length mitred, you can make up a set for a job very quickly. Should the mitres wear, then cut those pieces needing it shorter by one or two picas.

This is, as we before said, very expensive to commence with, but an immense saving in the long run. Any foundry will get *out* rule in this manner, and stamp its length in picas on each piece. *Typographic.*

A good way to take grease spots out of books or papers is to place a piece of blotting paper on the under side of the leaf and rub the grease spot with a piece of sponge or woolen cloth containing a small quantity of benzine. This powerful chemical preparation is also especially suitable for cleansing colored inks from type. It will remove dry ink when lye and turpentine fail to do so. The chief objections to its use are its offensive odor and its inflammability. It should, if possible, be kept out of doors and never used except by daylight.

If a little soda or sulphuric acid is put into the water when wetting writing papers which are much sized, it will prevent the paper from adhering. Do not press the paper while damp.

We would advise all those requiring the services of a first class engineer or machinist, to set up, repair, alter or refit printing or book-binding machinery, steam engines or any other kind of light and delicate machinery, to call on Mr. W. D. Aitken, whose card will be found on page 16 of this issue.