Inventors and newspaper men have been looking for a machine that would do away with that costly item—type. In the type-casting machines they have succeeded in obtaining that result. To give the reader a better and more practical idea of the difference between the workings of the two machines I will compare them in a general way.

As regards power and the services of a machinist, the difference is not material. The difference in the cost of type for the setting and metal for the casting machine is a large item, and the price of each is familiar to all printers. The waste, perhaps, is larger in quantity with the metal, but the cost being so much less, it does not equal in value that of type broken, the latter being done mostly by the machine distributer. The destruction of type used by setting machines has been one of the greatest drawbacks of all the efforts at mechanical composition. The McMillan machine has a distributer separate from the type-setting machine, while with the Thorne the work of distributing 'dead matter' is carried on coincidently with the composition of new matter. In addition to the original cost of type, certain machines require an extra 'nicking' for each character, which adds about 5 cents per thousand ems.

Besides the keyboard operator the type-setting machine requires a justifier, which doubles the cost of composition. The one who runs or feeds the distributer is also an extra expense, and generally a boy or girl is employed to keep the dust off the type, for if the type is the least dirty it does not move easily in the channels. Three or four persons' work—the product of one machine—costs too much to be practical.

With the type-casting machines a great amount of this expense is avoided and the results are larger. For either the Mergenthaler linotype or the Rogers machine—these two being the leading ones—but one operater is required. No distributer is needed. The Schuckers machine—whose owners have recently combined with the Rogers people—is also a type-casting machine, but it has never been put on the market. Its projector is the original inventor of the 'double-wedge justifying device,' used by both the Mergenthaler and Rogers machines. The Schuckers differs from those machines in that it uses 'male' instead of 'female' dies, and the casting is done outside the machine. The line is indented into a lead slug, and the slug is passed automatically into a casting box external of the machine proper, where it is cast and trimmed.

The Mergenthaler has an automatic distributer, and the operator of the Rogers distributes the matrices after the casting of each line by elevating the forward end of the machine. These two machines require no help outside the operators, and it is patent to all that the cost of running them is small as compared with the type-setting machines. The product is much larger, especialy so in the case of the Mergenthaler, where the operator has nothing to do with the distribution. The Rogers operator is handicapped by having to wait until a line is cast, and then distribute that line before he car start a new one.

Another point in favor of type-casting machines is the utility in handling the type-bars. Less care is required, which is a gain of time. If type gets bent or broken it goes into the 'hell box.' The type-bars can get bent and dirty and not lose their value. They are remelted. After a form is dead the type-bars can be taken out in five minutes and put in a box for use in again supplying the machine's metal pot. But how different with type! The form requires care, and is frequently in the way, as it crowds your stone-room.

Printers, and especially newspaper publishers, are finding availability and practical results in type-casting machines. Although the face of the type-bar is not all that could be desired, it is improving with the constantly added improvements to the machines.

The type-setting machines are not advancing with the same stride, and it is due to the *fact* that they have no practical automatic or mechanical justifier. It has been stated in the trade papers that the McMillan inventor has finally succeeded in devising such a scheme; but there are many who are asking: Will it do practical work? The writer is in doubt. The type-casting machine of to-day is vastly better than that of even a year ago. It has come to stay.

THE CREATURE OF A DAY

MR. JOHN COCKERILL, editor of the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, in a recent article in the *Cosmopolitan*, speaks as follows of the editor of the New York *Sun*:—"Mr. Chas. A. Dana, unquestionably one of the most interesting figures in the world of journalism, has been known to express the opinion that a newspaper is a creature of a day only, that in and for that day it is born and dies, and that there is no iron chain of consistency necessarily reaching from one to another of these issues in their unending series. Mr. Dana has for so many years identified the *Sun* with himself, that its readers go to its editorial page 'to see what Dana says.' They are reasonably sure that he will surprise and consequently interest them. It is a tradition in New York that Mr. Dana said, some years since, that no citizen in this town could go to bed at night with the certainty that he could foretell the *Sun's* editorial course the next morning on any given topic. Mr. Dana has the faculty of saying vicious things in a smart way. He tickles the intellects of his readers until they forget all about their morals."

SLOTH makes all things difficult, but industry all easy, and he that riseth late must trot all day.