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Editorial and Contributed.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SHORTHAND.

BY W. MALLOY.

THE advance of civilization and the development of the different kinds of industry which engage the attention of the people of this as well as other countries are continually demanding new methods and appliances for saving time and labor. With the increase in population, and the increase in the volume of business which is yearly going on, it is evident that the old methods of writing do not answer all the purposes of this fast age. While the telegraph is used to transmit whole pages of newspaper matter, the shorthand writer is required to write with analogous dispatch. Nor is the use of shorthand now confined to newspaper enterprise as formerly, but is rapidly becoming popularised and adopted by large corporations such as railways, banks and loan companies in their offices, by law courts in recording the evidence taken in proceedings taken before them, by mercantile men in their counting room, and by professional men in their offices. The advantage thereby gained is not confined to the mere saving of the time of the writer, but equally affects many things dependent on the writing. For instance, in the proceedings in our law courts time is saved alike by the Judges presiding, by the counsel employed, and by the writers in attendance. The lawyer need not draft his pleadings but may dictate them to a shorthand writer who can take down in less than one tenth of the time in which the pleader himself could draft it in long-hand. The railway manager, the banker, the merchant and the manufacturer may equally dictate to their clerks and employees, and thus save valuable time and expedite business. While we give the above as examples, we do not mean to intimate that its advantages are confined to any particular spheres of usefulness. On the contrary there is scarcely any department of public or private business in which it may not be employed with advantage. And as time rolls on the advantages of this beautiful art will become more and more fully appreciated. About twenty years ago the number of persons to be met with who could write shorthand were exceedingly few. Now its advantages are so apparent that it is being taught by many private

tutors and in most private schools, and we hope soon to see it introduced as a branch of general education in our common public schools. In learning this art we would advise all to learn well whatever system they adopt. Although celerity in writing is one of the objects to be aimed at, yet legibility should be equally kept in view, for if what is written cannot be read, or read only with difficulty, it is evident that little advantage can be derived from the system.

LEGIBLE SHORTHAND.

THE above is the title of a new system of shorthand lately invented and issued by Edward Pocknell, Esq., of London, Eng., Hon. Sec. to the London Shorthand Writers' Association. Mr. Pocknell has embodied the particulars of his new system in a neatly bound work of nearly a hundred pages, which contains a full exposition and description of its principles and features, accompanied by a multiplicity of appropriate exercises. In glancing over "Legible Shorthand" we find it contains no less than five inventions, five improvements and seven claimed advantages over current systems. Its claims may be summarised as follows:—A complete simple-stroke alphabet, with two attendant curves to each stroke; a method of showing or indicating the place of every medial vowel, and a final mute vowel without writing them; an improved method of indicating by the use of curved characters, initial and final vowels without writing them; the use of the principle of "position" by applying it to classes of words; new method of abbreviation; absence of exceptions to rules, and the large number of logograms which may be used. This is certainly an elaborate claim for a new system, and we can only add that if it be found superior to the existing systems and true to its prospectus, the author deserves the thanks of every phonographer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the New York Stenographers Association will be held in Buffalo on August 23rd and 24th. A highly pleasant and edifying time is expected.