

rance if he be ignorant, or to cover up fraud if he be fraudulent.

The stenographer's knowledge is of no avail, except it be available when needed. This may seem like a truism, but it may not be amiss to repeat and impress it. Some students are inclined to study shorthand as they studied geography, in an indifferent, hazy way, so indefinite that they cannot repeat what they have learned. The stenographer's knowledge must be positive and permanent. He must know the best forms for the words he has to write, and his ear, eye, and hand must be so thoroly trained, and trained in unison, that the rapid utterances of the speaker may be taken down without hesitation.

The demands of the public and the press are most exacting as to rapidity and correctness. But seldom can the press wait for him to refer to his library for the explanation of a difficult passage or the meaning of a doubtful phrase, or the proper construction of an involved sentence. All his mental culture must be concentrated, condensed, compiled and stored in his brain, ready at a moment's warning. His memory must have walls and compartments in it, where what might seem as useiess lumber may be reached at any instant. Not only must he know where to find what he needs, but in most cases he must have it so near at hand that the search for it shall occupy no time.

It may not be needless to add that the stenographer who is to do thorough, conscientious, intelligible work, must understand and appreciate what he reports. This is especially true of the newspaper reporter, who is required to condense speeches, arguments, etc., giving the gist as nearly as possible in the language of the speaker, but, perforce, introducing his own phraseology in the process of condensing.

All these circumstances tend in the direction of the argument that the stenographer's work is more trying on the physical constitution, requires greater mental aptness, and manual expertness, and necessitates a wider range of education, than any other profession. This is quite true; and the profession will never have the standing it deserves until stenographers rise to the dignity of their position, and insist upon a recognition of their abilities by performing their work in the most creditable manner and illustrating the principles here set forth.

There is a great gulf between the stenographer and the shorthand. The work

of the former requires years of constant and laborious study and persistent practice; the work of the other can be well and honestly done by an expenditure of much less time and energy. We have no fear that the army of competent stenographers will ever be too large; but the fear exists, in the minds of the older members of the profession, that incompetent shorthanders, not understanding their proper relation to the seniors, will assume serious responsibilities that cannot be maintained, and that thus the profession, in its social and financial standing, may be degraded.

We do not share in this fear; for we are persuaded that, in view of the existence of a responsible Society whose council will be ever ready to aid the juniors with advice and help, the juniors will not presume upon their privileges by assuming duties in the thorough performance of which they would be likely to fail.

CO-OPERATION.

[This article was prepared for an Ever Circulator. In it are many points of interest which should be thoroly canvassed by the reader, to his benefit. Co-operation is the thing the shorthand profession needs, and we can have none too much of it.]

The true success of any great work is realized in the motto of our adjoining State (Kentucky), "United we Stand, Divided we Fall." So it is with our profession. The working in unison, or *co-operation* of its members, has made it a complete success, and of lasting benefit to the ones most concerned—beginners. In the days of Charles Dickens and his cotemporaries, the difficulties of learning shorthand were immeasurably greater than at the present time, and in the early introduction of the art into America, when Mr. Benn Pitman taught in Philadelphia, and afterwards in Cincinnati, there was much to be learned toward the improvement of the art. At that time, members who might be said to have completed their studies (if, indeed, one ever finishes learning), as well as those just commencing, sent suggestions and ideas to the so called "inventors," who, combining them with original ones, gradually brought phonography to its present state of comparative perfection. This means of co-working, which, in England, is still going on, has proved of wonderful assistance to such as may take up the study to-day. Though there are a greater number of systems now, which possibly