

dusk as if he were driving a perpetual nail, and the "gentlemen from miscellaneous places" yelling "Mr. Speaker!" like so many Oavers asking for more. During this time, you hear a steady predominating strain of noise, like a human voice in distress, which is, sound, and nothing out a sound," and upon investigating the subject, you are astounded at the discovery, that the "gentleman from Everywhere," or some other gentleman, has been making an eloquent speech, which will be blazoned in the *Bumzillicum Blower* as a "master piece of oratory," and "altogether unanswerable. Sure enough, it would be "unanswerable" if printed according to delivery. The wonder isn't that so little business is done, and it is by no means surprising that so many lobby schemes "go through." How the House looks in one of its frantic moods, I may have an opportunity to describe—in its *working* moods it as like unto bedlam's self. W. D. B.

Manchester Phonographic Union.

The English *Phonetic Journal* contains an interesting account of the sixth quarterly meeting of this association. Mr. Henry Pitman, of the *Manchester Courier*, President, in the chair. We make the following extract.

In introducing Mr. J. B. Marsh, of the "Manchester Examiner and Times," to support the resolution, Mr. Pitman said that he was the author of the best life of Garibaldi that had been written.

Mr. Marsh remarked that one of the most difficult tasks for a reporter was to condense a six column speech to a column and a half. Since being in Manchester he had reported a great many meetings and he had lately reported a butchers' meeting, and he must say that the butchers spoke uncommonly well. Indeed they might have been phonographers, they condensed their speech so well. He learned Phonography a long time ago, when Messrs. Benn and Henry Pitman were at Chester. He heard a lecture they delivered there, and immediately desired to learn the art. An elder brother of his having paid the fee for being taught, received a course of lessons, and he tried to learn as much as he could from his brother. One day Mr. Pitman came into the office where he was practising Phonography, and seeing what he was doing, offered to give him lessons freely if he would come to the class along with his brother.—The learning of Phonography required more patience than he at that time possessed, and after having allowed several years to go by without making any use of it, he at last resolved, in order to get rid of an irksome situation, to become a reporter. In course of time he got appointed on the *Chester Courant*, and used every means to perfect himself in the art of Phonography; he took every sermon he heard, and wrote out one

every week. After being at Chester some time, a fearful accident occurred,—the wreck of the Royal Charter, and he was sent down to report the occurrence on the spot. His reports appeared in the Manchester papers, and as he had a capital offer he came to Manchester. He learned Phonography because the bias of his mind was to study, and unless that was a bias, it was useless for persons to become reporters. Another phase of the reporter's occupation, was that they were brought into the company and conversation of men who are most talented and learned. Another phase was it enabled them to travel. He had a dear friend in the United States who had latterly, eaten and reported his way all over the vast continent. He was engaged some time in Washington reporting the debates, he was also engaged at Concord. At the close of the session of Legislature there, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the reporters, and his friend's name was mentioned first. He afterwards followed the Prince of Wales in his tour in America, and was present at most of the levees. Many of his letters had appeared in the Manchester papers, which they had no doubt read. At the present time he had accepted an engagement in the House of Representatives at Sacramento, and was then on his way thither. By the money he had received he had visited every place of interest in America. With respect to Phonography and Phonotypy, he would earnestly recommend them. He should be glad when they became necessary branches of education, when every child at school was taught them. He had a very high regard for the phonotypic art, and for some time taught it to a school of ragged children. In his own private letters he found Phonography of very great assistance. Mr. Pitman had alluded to a pamphlet of his. He would say for the instruction of others, that he had written the greater portion of it in Phonography, in the few minutes they always spent before public meetings commenced; and he thought those parts of it, written under those circumstances, were the warmest and appealed most to the heart and feelings. He heartily went with the resolution that had been moved. The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. Pitman said that the friend to whom Mr. Marsh alluded was Mr. Marsh's brother, and he felt it an honor to have taught such a youth. He was a credit to the art. He was now correspondent for the *Manchester Guardian*, and was latterly reporting his way through the United States.

[The elder brother referred to (who is only about twenty years of age, we imagine) was for several months engaged on the *Gazette* in Cincinnati, and after earning sufficient to pay his expenses, started with the best recommendations, and the good wishes and respect of all who knew him, for California.—

He is bent on seeing the world and all the noteworthy things in it, and he has sufficient to do it. Mr. Marsh is an able reporter, and has acquired the habit of doing with ease and grace that which many reporters find so difficult, *condense*,—a valuable acquirement in a newspaper office. Mr. Marsh is an able, conscientious, steady worker,—(in the privacy of a parenthesis let us say, for the benefit of young reporters, that he neither smokes, spits, chews nor swears,) he is modest and unassuming, and is sure to make friends wherever he goes. His place on the *Gazette* is filled by Mr. J. B. McCullagh, an excellent Phonographer, who has the enviable reputation of being the youngest reporter, and the fastest writer in the city.—*Phonographic Magazine.*]

The Medical and Surgical Reporter. (Phila.)

The leading editorial in this valuable periodical for Feb. 16th, entitled "Mental Hygiene and public education," recognises the claims and importance of a philosophic system of spelling, and deploras the mischief that is necessarily wrought in endeavoring to impress falsity and contradiction as truth, upon the mind of the child, while attempting to master the perversities of English orthography. We scarcely looked for phonetic arguments in a medical journal, but finding them, we confess we attach more importance to a physician's argument for true spelling, than we should to a schoolmaster's. Phonetic spelling, from a schoolmaster's point of view is worthy of consideration, inasmuch as it presents a better instrument for mental culture, but a "physician's certificate," as to the mischief of romanian spelling, and the truth and beauty of the phonetic method, is authoritative, and will be likely to have effect with many minds who would not be influenced by the same dictum supported only by the teacher's authority.

"A man with a memory for dates may be able to tell the exact time of every historic event, from Alexander the Great to this day, and yet know less of history than one who cannot remember a single date. It is not memory—the sentence cannot be often repeated—that makes true knowledge, but understanding. The *why, how, whence, whither*, are the real motor springs of the intellectual organism, and unless education and instruction are based upon these, unless the child is taught to inquire for itself, and think over what it learns, to interpret phenomena, and solve questions, all mere memory-knowledge will be of no avail.

There are essentially two methods of instruction and education. One is the *natural method*; the other the *artificial* or *unnatural*. The one is in accordance with the laws of mental hygiene; the other violates