

them two to one. If printers, on morning papers, could school themselves to take but one drink of liquor in every 24 hours, and that one immediately upon completion of the night's work, I have, no doubt, but that such a course would be a great assistant in correcting the nervous system, by producing the rest so much needed. Unfortunately, the past and present indicates that this can be adhered to by but comparatively few. Hence the necessity of adopting other guards, and I know of none that will mitigate the evil more than the ostracism of boys and the recruiting of morning papers from the ranks of those whose characters and habits have been formed while learning the business in the broad light of day.

Unfair Practice.

When employed on a regular's frame, a sub. has identically the same privileges of the office, and is subject to the same restrictions, as his principal, and it is manifestly unfair and dishonorable for him to curry favor by correcting passable errors and robbing his case of sorts for the accommodation of other regulars. It is much more objectionable for him to hang around the composing room for the purpose of holding copy for the reader *without remuneration* and to distribute objectionable matter (black, italic, and pi) for the regulars. I have heard of some "contemptibles" who have gone so far as to ply regulars with liquor and then loaned them money to go on a "periodical," in order to secure a few weeks' work. Such men should be "barred" by reputable foremen.

The Standard.

The endeavor to establish a true standard of type has long engaged the attention of the fraternity, and the recurrence and consideration of this vexed question apparently thrusts the solution at a greater distance than before. Many plans have been suggested—some elaborate and complicated, but based on sound principles; others, simple and easily comprehended. All that have been tested have proven more or less defective. With me, the result of considerable experimenting and more reflection induces the opinion that a "true standard"—one of uniformity—invariable through variability of bodies of the same face.—will never attain more than an imaginary existence.

Yet there may be *several* standards. Indeed, the re-introduction of old-style faces on lean bodies demands that steps be taken, having, for

an object, the recompensing compositors for loss entailed in composition.

In debating this question we should bear in mind that as the size of the type is *enlarged* a standard based on *nonpareil* correspondingly *diminishes*, while as the size *decreases* from that standard there is a notable *gain*; so it would be unfair to the employer to establish an arbitrary rule for the regulation of this matter when we have the naked fact before our eyes that type cast with a view to conformity would necessarily be disproportioned.

It appears to me the height of perversity to insist (as some *do*) that founders cast *side sorts* unnecessarily large (destroying the symmetry of the font) in order to bring their type within the space required by the old standard. There are so many faces to select from, and so many foundries in active operation, that if one or more should resort to this method of marring the beauty of finish, it is not probable that patronage would follow, but rather the contrary.

Frequency of use should be the governing principle in determining a standard—the body and face secondary. The lower-case a, e, i, o, u, l, n, r, s, t, w, y, being the letters most actively employed, and Scotch face, a mean between fat and lean bodies, their aggregate in ems in each size would be an equitable standard respectively. Thus the compositor would reap the benefit of broad faces as fat and of lean bodies by counting the width of measure as of the next smaller type, while the employer would derive the advantage accruing from measuring each body by *its own* standard.

Curvatures.

Few offices are supplied with the necessary facilities for quickly shaping curvatures in their varied windings—the greater number rely upon the ingenuity and mechanical skill of the job hand to overcome difficulties occasioned by deficiencies in this respect. Thrown upon his natural resources, the job hand turns to *experimenting*, and many are the devices to secure perfect lines and equalization. Soap and "paper-mash" have been used to a considerable extent, as has also clay, while calcine plaster is more extensively and quite effectively employed.

All these are more or less objectionable—soap, though easily handled and readily applied, wastes labor and time in removal; "paper-mash" requires too long a period for drying before putting to press, unfitting its use in a hurried