

improvement by the study of some art or science, if such art or science could be so presented that an acquaintance with it might be attained without the aid of lectures or oral instruction.

Now, I am about to make a suggestion as to the study of an art, which, I fear many persons unacquainted with the subject, will at once pronounce useless and impracticable; but which, I have every reason to believe, would prove an easy, practicable and useful step, in the direction of self-improvement; an art which would give the learner valuable aid in making further acquisitions of knowledge, and which would, in its attainment and practice supply a mental stimulus of a very wholesome description. I mean *phonography* or *phonetic shorthand*. A knowledge of this art, would, I think prove specially useful to teachers. It could be learnt from the manual alone without the aid of an instructor, and after the first few lessons had been mastered, it could be so far employed as to keep up an interest in its study. In phonography there is a training for the *eye*, the *ear* and the *hand*. The necessary mental analysis of the framework (consonant outline) and the sound or sounds (vowels) in every word, conduces to improvement in pronunciation. The exactness with which the letters must be formed bears upon the teaching of ordinary script and drawing: while the contrast between the forms of words written by sound and those written according to the ordinary spelling, tends to exactness in orthography.

Phonography is not a short-hand of arbitrary signs. On the contrary, its letters or characters have a strictly scientific basis. Again, phonography is quite as legible as good long-hand, while it occupies a fourth of the space, and from a third to a sixth of the time in writing. Phonography is written in various styles, of which the first or simplest, with few contractions, can be learnt in two or three weeks.

The second or corresponding style can be written in as many months; while the style used by reporters, which is simply the preceding style contracted, requires more time and practice.

The corresponding style would be the most useful to teachers. They could employ it with great advantage, in making extracts from books; in making abstracts; in keeping a common-place book or a journal, and in corresponding with those among their friends who might be acquainted with it. Phonography is admirably suited for correspondence. A post-card will carry a letter of quite respectable length; while the rapidity with which thoughts can be committed to paper, renders it a most valuable aid to composition. The system which, to my mind, is the most easily learnt, the most legible, and in every way the best, is that which is found in the improved "*Manual of Phonography*" by Pitman and Howard; Phonographic Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, price one dollar.

This little book is a model of clearness and arrangement, and in point of execution and finish, as perfect as anything of the kind can be. It is sold by the publishers as above. Thousands, I believe, have taught