

voice very different from the monotone of the reader; you will be startled at the rapidity of utterance; you will grow nervous as the speaker warms up in his subject, for you will feel the importance of your mission. But keep cool—or at least try to—and be careful about your forms. Go home and transcribe in longhand all you have written, and correct errors. Keep on in this way, and some day you will be a skilful reporter.

(9.) Q.—Does it not require unusual skill to give satisfaction as a short hand clerk—say to take down conversations in business or law offices?—C. A. M., Pittsburgh, Pa.

A.—It requires unusual skill to be a satisfactory shorthand writer in any capacity. A quick eye, a ready hand, a sharp ear, an active brain, a strong physical constitution, good education,

cheerfulness, courage, and vim—these are only a very few of the characteristics of a skilful shorthand writer. But our questioner mistakes the work of shorthand clerks. They are not required to take down conversations, but to write letters and documents from the dictation of some person who will generally tone down his speed of utterance to the capacity of the stenographer. With a good-natured chief, the clerk's work is reasonably easy if he be even usually skilful in the use of his tools; but there are times when the temper of the best of clerks will be tried by hasty or muffled utterance, or long and involved sentences. It requires unusual skill to render intelligible some of the sentences dictated by inexperienced chiefs—for dictation is an art only to be acquired by study and practice, and when the dictator is "green" the clerk has a trying time of it.

Phonographic Gossip.

CANADA.

MR. E. E. HORTON is the happy father of a bouncing baby boy.

MR. W. H. HIGGINS, editor of the *Whitby Chronicle*, reports speeches for his own paper in a shorthand of his own invention.

THE matters in dispute between Mr. C. H. McIntosh, of the *Ottawa Citizen*, and Mr. T. J. Richardson, the former contractor for *Hansard*, in reference to the payment for the reporting of the Commons debates, are being settled by a Receiver appointed by the Court of Chancery.

MR. F. W. WODELL has disposed of his interest in the *Forest Adviser*, as joint publisher, and has accepted a position in the establishment of the publishers of the *WRITER*. The magazine will profit by this latest addition to the ever-increasing staff. Mr. Wodell writes Bann Pitman's system.

THE Debates of the Senate, reported, edited and published by A. and G. C. Holland, have been issued in the usual book form. The index and table of contents are very carefully compiled. These are important features in a work of this kind. Of the reporting, it is only necessary to say that it is done in the best style of the art, of which the Messrs. Holland are masters.

MR. HERBERT BURROWS, a young and promising phonographer from Napanee, has secured a position as shorthand clerk in the law office of Messrs. Fergusson, Bain, Gordon & Shepley. Mr. Burrows's father is School Inspector in Napanee district, and has the honor of having introduced to the phonographic world Mr. E. E. Horton, Superior Court Reporter, and of having guided up the hill of learning the youthful footsteps of Mr. Albert Horton—a transcript of whose notes appears in this issue.

UNITED STATES.

PROF. C. L. MARTIN teaches shorthand in a Quincy, Ill., school.

The full account of Harry P. Comegys' suicide at Topeka, Ka., came too late for this number.

MR. JOHN GRAY, court reporter, Chicago, is on a vacation. The rest of the profession is scattered over the country.

MR. ALFRED GREGORY, late of the Grand Trunk Railway, is stenographer to the Purchasing Agent of the C. B. & Q. Railway, Chicago.

A correspondent writes that he heard on the street that Mr. Dement, Sr., a Chicago court reporter, recently wrote 300 words of testimony in a minute.

JAMES E. MUNSON, law stenographer, and author of *Practical Phonography*, has removed to more commodious premises in the *Tribune* building, New York City.

MR. DANIEL FRITTS, stenographer to Messrs. Brunswick & Baily, billiard manufacturers, Chicago, died suddenly. He was much respected by all who knew him.

MR. J. W. FORTUNE has left the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railway, and is now chief clerk and Secretary to the Manager of the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railway Company.

MALVERN McCCLURE committed suicide recently in Carrollton, Ill., by shooting himself through the head. He had been studying very assiduously at shorthand, but whether that had anything to do with his mental derangement was not proven at the inquest.

THE average speaker uses 120 words a minute. John Sherman once delivered a speech at the average of 170 words a minute, and Bann Pitman reported it so plainly in phonography that his wife copied the signs into longhand without having heard a word of it.