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Slurring on Cylinder Presses.

In the *Journal für Buchdruckerkunst*, Stuttgart, we find a very able article on the above subject, and have made the following free translation of the principal points:—

Slurring is where words, lines or rules on the outer edges of forms, or near blank spaces, have a blurred appearance or print double, and mostly occurs on the front or back edge of the form, sometimes both; it often occurs in the centre of a form, the latter case mainly in printing tint plates or solid surfaces, and is then difficult to overcome. Among the many causes of slurring may be found paper, form, compositor, pressman, press, floor, transmission of power, and the general management of the business. The paper is the cause when wavy or wrinkled, touching the type before a full impression from the cylinder comes upon it; the same may occur where folded paper is used and the backs have not been properly broken and pressed; again, where the paper has been too long wet down, the edges curl and prevent it from laying smoothly on the cylinder; thin paper is less liable to slur than thick. Points in the form being too high occasion much trouble; thick tapes running too near the type will make a slur. The type form is the cause when imperfectly justified, or if locked up too tight and it springs; it may happen sometimes to the best compositor that lines work loose when on the press, in which case the type is pulled up by the rollers, thus bearing off the paper, and a partially double impression is the result. Extra heavy ink, and sticky or very new rollers will frequently be the cause. In any of the above cases the remedy is simple enough after the cause is discovered.

There are type forms such as have a large blank space in the centre, in which the slur will occur at the bottom, caused by the sag of the paper; see that the draw sheet is tight, also the tender bands, so that the sheet is kept snug to the cylinder. Forms with wood cuts or stereotype plates may sometimes show a slur on one end or the other; it may be caused by soft or

uneven underlays, or possibly the blocks are warped; the first thing to see is that the blocks are type high, using only hard packing or bristol board for underlays, except where the underlays are very slight; warped wood cuts can be straightened by placing them concave side down on a pad of wet blotting paper for a short time. If slurring is caused by plates being loose and uneven on the blocks, have them properly fastened, and see that the plates and blocks are perfectly true. A great deal of annoyance is caused by the use of uneven wood and metal furniture in book forms, causing them to spring, and a fair impression cannot be obtained; locking the form too tight on the bed of the press will produce a like effect.

Some machines by many years run on the same form are liable to slur if forms of other sizes are put on, particularly if head or foot lines stand alone; in this case the fault is in the cylinder boxes, which have become worn, and will require to be repaired before good work can be done. If the slur be found at foot of form, the cylinder is too small and should be brought up with hard packing or a sheet of zinc; but if the slur is at the head the cylinder is too large and the packing must be reduced. In the first instance a watchful pressman will notice that the type will get off its feet to the head, in the latter case it works off its feet towards the foot, making it necessary to frequently unlock the form and straighten the type up. If the cylinder is too large it goes faster than the bed, if too small the bed travels faster than the cylinder, in either case the sheet is moved during the impression and shows a slur. In all these cases slurring may be avoided by attention and care.

We now come to a kind of slurring where the most experienced pressman may find himself in a dilemma; this is where the slur appears in one or more places, and never occurs in any other part of the sheet; it is caused by some of the teeth in the rack or pinion being smaller or larger than the rest; although the slur may be but slight, it causes bad work and wears down the type very rapidly; the best remedy is to avoid buying that kind of press.

Slurring of the worst kind is where type or plates are worn down remarkably quick, and no one is able to give the reason. The pressman can prove he has not too much impression, the type is good, paper of excellent quality, yet after say 15,000 impressions the type has lost its sharpness, and at 30,000 it will not give a distinct impression at all, while after a run of 50,000 the type is only fit for the metal pot. Here is a sneaking, gnawing enemy; a shaky floor, or foundation, vibrating at every move of the press, causes slurring the year round, ruining type and presses, and the temper of the pressman.—*Electrotyper.*