

will earn forty dollars a month. Young men, if applying at this office for similar positions, would be told frankly that experience had led the firm to prefer the services of the gentler sex. The rooms are bright and cheerful, and I noticed that during an interval of her task one of the operators had been refreshing herself with a novel, in strict accordance with the privileges of her position.

THE BENEFITS OF PHRASING.

Doctors differ—so do shorthand writers and teachers. The *American S. W.* says: "Experience shows that not only is a judicious use of phraseography a saving of time, but it renders the outlines *more legible* than if the words were written separately."

Per contra, the *Australasian S. W.*, asserts: "The more you phrase the more trouble you will have in reading your notes," and advises "write disconnectedly as much as possible."

These opinions, seemingly "wide as the poles asunder," tend in the same direction—guarding against a too profuse use of phraseography. A "judicious" use, as the *A. S. W.* puts it, is helpful. The phrases must be easily formed, characteristic, and not too long or involved. Some of the most eminent American reporters almost entirely discard phrases; but they are exceptional in their attainments or work chiefly in legislative assemblies where the eye must be as active as the hand in order that each speaker may be credited with his own speech. When the eye of the reporter is moving towards the various speakers as they articulate, the phonographic outlines must be left to take care of themselves, and in such cases they are simple, large, free-hand strokes and curves, dots and dashes. For ordinary reporting we decidedly recommend phrasing, with the qualifications named.

ANCIENT AND MODERN REPORTERS.

The Rev. John G. Oakley, of the Forty-fourth Street Methodist Church, New York, speaking of the lessons to be drawn from the contrasting characters of the twelve men whom Moses sent into the land of Canaan to investigate and report on the condition of things, said that ten were cowards, and prated of giants and unsurmountable difficulties; but Joshua and Caleb were moral heroes, who were discouraged by none of the difficulties that presented themselves. They were likened by the preacher to the modern reporters, who stop at no obstacles, quail at no dangers, and triumph over every difficulty. "It would be an impossibility," said the speaker, "to pick at random ten reporters from the great journals of our day who would be all cowards. The press of to-day may well be proud of the courageous band of men who have risen up around it, and the community at large may be thankful that night and day these men are fighting the battles of education and human intelligence."

THE EGYPTIAN MEMORY.

MARVELLOUS CULTIVATION OF ONE FACULTY OF THE MIND.

The University of Cairo, established, during the 10th century, in the Mosque of El Azhar, is, says the *St. James Gazette*, the most important seat of learning in the Mahommedan world. Its 10,000 "undergraduates" flock there from every quarter of the globe in which the Moslem faith is professed. The teaching is presumably the best; it is universally believed to be the best. The period of residence there varies from three to six years. The students pay no fees, nor are the professors paid. Each teacher has his class, who either listen or read aloud. The place is a very babel for noise. Study consists in learning by heart; the subjects taught are religion, jurisprudence, logic and poetry. Mathematics, once so flourishing in Egypt, are practically a dead science now. It is a strange sight to view the pupils repeating their tasks to a mechanical swing of the body, which seems to be essential to their studies. Of modern thought and natural science, the teachers are profoundly ignorant; indeed, they despise them. The methods of criticism and study universally adopted in Europe, and which develop in so high a degree the reasoning powers of man, are equally unknown to them. The result of such a system of education is the cultivation of one faculty of the mind only—that of memory—at the expense of the rest; and the knowledge thus acquired, to the exclusion of all independent thought, is regarded as final and infallible. It is no unusual thing to meet with men who know the whole Koran by heart, and who can quote freely from the commentators. To such an extent is the memory cultivated that in the study of the law or in the acquirements of a foreign language very little effort is necessary to an Arab. To read is almost to know.

THE GROUPING OF ANIMALS.

It is a curious fact that the English language has a separate word to designate the groups of the various animals. Thus one group of birds is differently named from another, and so with animals. If any one desires to be specially technical in speaking of groups of birds, the following will be found serviceable: A covey of partridges, a nide of pheasants, a wisp of snipe, a bevy of quail, a flight of doves or swallows, a muster of peacocks, a siege of herons, a building of rooks, a brood of grouse, a plump of wild fowl, a stand of plover, a watch of nightingales, a flock of geese, a cast of hawks, a swarm of bees, a school of whales, a shoal of herrings, a herd of swine, a skulk of foxes, a pack of wolves, a drove of oxen or cattle, a sounder of hogs, a troop of monkeys, a pride of lions, a sleuth of bears.

Thus ends the third volume of the *COSMOPOLITAN SHORTHAND WRITER*.