

The responsibility resting upon the stenographer is very great. All of us know what it is to record proceedings affecting the property of our neighbors; many of us have realized the fact that a human life might be lost through a mistake of the pen. The lawyer serves his client's interests entirely, and it is right that he should. The judge on the bench, or the officer before whom judicial proceedings are had, weighs the evidence and decides the issues upon his best judgment, but from his decision and judgment there has wisely been provided a method of appeal, in case either party to an action deems the decision unjust. In the case of the stenographer, upon the correctness of whose minutes may rest all that is important in the case, there is no appeal, except to the memory of the judge, a power seldom invoked and rarely exercised.

It is doubtful if this question of responsibility receives at the hands of the young aspirant for stenographic laurels, who thinks himself qualified, after six months' study, to fill any position, the consideration which its importance deserves. Let him face this question fairly and squarely, and give it the consideration it is entitled to, and the chances are he will decide to spend a few more weeks at least, in fitting himself for the grave and important part which he will be called upon to play.

Members of the bar, as do also members of the journalistic profession, require at the hands of the professional shorthand reporter the exercise of all the ability which he possesses in the work they call upon him to perform. It is principally to those two professions that we look for encouragement and support. They furnish us with the means of livelihood, and they have a right to expect much of us. As consumers of the product of our labor, in this age of competition, they, in common with all other classes, demand the best article that can be produced. It should be our object to make our work of such a quality as to command their admiration and appreciation. They are men quick to recognize merit, and we can trust them to reward it as it deserves.

It is customary with many stenographic reporters to look only at the commercial value of their services, and to leave out of sight the fact that they represent one of the noblest and most elevating of arts. Few take into consideration the importance of stenography as an educator. Is there one among us who can say that he has not acquired, in the practice of his profession, much information, valuable and useful, to fit him for the discharge of the duties of a citizen and a member of society? In that respect our profession approaches that of the lawyer and the editor. As the lawyer acquires a new fund of knowledge from the study requisite to the preparation of his cases, and the newspaper man in the collection and arrangement of the matter for his leaders and paragraphs, so the stenographer, in the practice of his profession, lays away in the store-house of memory very much that will be of value to him in the future.

Stenography deserves to receive, as it is receiving, the consideration of thoughtful, earnest men. It is not a trade. It is a profession, and its members, after a life-time of active service, are willing to acknowledge that they have yet very much to learn. It calls for no eloquence or oratory on the part of its representative, no brilliant display of literary powers, but an honest, conscientious discharge of his duty to the best of his ability. The press educates and enlightens the people; the law protects them in their rights and privileges; and at the side of each, rendering valuable aid and assistance, stands stenography, a modest but useful handmaid. Quietly and silently she performs the task allotted to her, asking and expecting no honors and receiving no reward except such as is due to a faithful servant.

### SOME AMERICAN PHONOGRAPHERS.



We give below a further number of biographical sketches of members of the N. Y. S. Stenographers' Association. The first instalment appeared in the December issue of the WRITER:—

**CHARLES F. EARLE**, was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., in 1857; four years ago removed to Syracuse; received an academic education; learned Graham's system at Ithaca, and has been engaged in general reporting since removing to Syracuse.

**W. M. GAGE**, is 30 years of age; learned Graham's system eight years ago; was secretary for Howe Sewing Machine Co. for five years; was in the employ of Tinsley and Morgan, for one year, and is now shorthand secretary for the N. Y. State Agency of the Travellers' Insurance Co.

**T. D. SCHOOMAKER**, was born in Orange Co., N. Y.; was educated at district schools; in 1852 he mastered Pitman's shorthand; gave up the study and practice of it in 1854 for 15 years, and in 1868 took up Graham's system; has been official reporter of the Orange Co. Surrogate Court for ten years, and of Dutchess Co. for five years.

**ALBERT P. LITTLE** was born at Riga, N. Y., in 1848; prepared for college at Lima Seminary; graduated at University of Rochester in 1872; studied phonography while at school; has been reporting since 1872 in different courts; writes Benn Pitman's system with some of Munson's expedients; is assistant stenographer in the Supreme Court.

**HENRY L. BEACH** was born at East Springfield, N. Y.; attended common and High Schools for a number of years; in 1876 he commenced the study of Graham's system at the Ithaca Institute; commenced reporting for the sixth Judicial District, under W. O. Wycokoff, in 1878; located in Binghamton, N. Y., in 1879; still uses Graham's system.