

occasionally be formed, with its "Speaker," "Hansard reporters," and, possibly, "strangers in the gallery." The "Government" and "Opposition" might discuss questions of public policy as involved, e.g., in a "Bill for the Regulation of Shorthand Writers, with a Special View to the Speedy Despatch in a Quiet Way of the Unemployed Surplusage"; or a "Bill for the Instant Removal of the Shorthand Centre from Chicago to Toronto." These parliamentary debates, conducted according to the procedure of the House of Commons, would doubtless be the means of developing latent talent, and preparing embryo members for that august assembly, who, in return for such kindness, would reward their "friends" with Government appointments! Happy thought!

While discussions of "systems" are properly ignored in Conventions, a free-and-easy Club such as we have in mind might add variety and vivacity to its exercises by examinations and expositions of new shorthand systems and expedients. By such discussions the Juniors especially would profit, for in forming reporting habits they are naturally influenced by the experience of their seniors. For example, a discussion of Thornton's "light-line" phonography would bring out the varied experiences of all present as to the advantages and otherwise of light and shaded strokes. Similarly, a reference to Mrs. D. L. S. Browne's "hell-hook" would bring up for profitable discussion the whole question of hooks, curves and loops, and their value and place as contractions. In brief, we advocate a mutual study—as animated and interesting as it may be made—of the *science* of Phonography and Phonetics, as contradistinguished from the *art*. A weekly, or at least a fortnightly meeting might be held, each monthly meeting, during the winter being semi-public, members being entitled to invite as many friends as they desire. These meetings to be held in a spacious and comfortable room well fitted as to acoustics, etc., and convenient of access. We would advise a stationary head-quarters, where steps might immediately be taken towards the founding of a reference and phonographic library, for the use of members in the city, and of visitors from the country.

We would also suggest that a gymnasium should be added to the attractions of the club. An exceptional opportunity to secure apparatus and instruction is now within reach of the promoters of the movement, and we feel confident it would prove an inestimable boon as a cure or preventative for pen paralysis, and the nervousness con-

sequent on mental exertion, as well as being an aid to the development of that bone and muscle of which, as Canadians, we are so proud.

In the event of such a Club being organized, the publisher of the WRITER will undertake to furnish the reading-room with all the Canadian newspapers—city and Provincial—and copies of the various shorthand publications.

Though the foregoing suggestions have special reference to Toronto, they will also apply to our sister cities, London, Hamilton, Guelph, St. Catharines and Ottawa, in Ontario; Winnipeg, in Manitoba; Quebec and Montreal in Quebec; St. John in New Brunswick; and Halifax in Nova Scotia. The basis of membership being sufficiently broad to admit all classes and degrees, there should be in each of these cities a nucleus around which an active and useful organization could gather.

After the crushing attack by *Browne's Monthly* on Canadian phonographers, because of their alleged inability to organize, we should run a fearful risk if we presumed to present the above outline as one that might be adopted with profit by our Columbian brethren. But, while we shrink shudderingly from such presumption, we may with "whispered humbleness" suggest that it may do our American friends no harm to contemplate the picture. Let them understand, however, that in adopting any of these Canadian ideas they render themselves liable to the severest censure of the *Monthly* critic—with all that is thereby implied!

#### THE SHORTHAND CONVENTION.

(*Napanee Express*.)

[By a Stenographer who was Present.]

The Canadian Shorthand Convention, held in Toronto on the 29th and 30th ult., was a decided success in every particular. The object of the convention was to form an association, the object of which is to strengthen the fraternity of shorthand writers as a body and for the personal benefit of the several members of the Association. About seventy shorthand writers attended and the most perfect harmony prevailed throughout. The invitation extended to the brethren across the lines, and was well responded to. Mr. Murphy, of Washington, was present and received a hearty welcome.

The assembly met at 10 a.m. on the 29th ult. Several most interesting letters and telegrams were read from noted shorthand writers. In the United States and Canada, expressing regrets of absence and approbation of the objects aimed at by the proposed Association. In the afternoon most interesting papers were read.