

NEGLECTED EDUCATION.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF TYPOGRAPHY.

IN considering, says Paper and Press, more specifically the phases of neglected technical education, on which we superficially touched last month, we shall first refer to plain composition, and point out some features of the schooling needed. The most important essential of a good plain typesetter is admitted to be a fair school education. Without this it is unreasonable to expect any progress to be made by the boy; and if he does not become disgusted with his ill success, and abandon his intention of learning the trade, he will, in all probability, add one more to the army of incompetents, and shuffle through his work only with the aid of friendly neighbors, whom he will call upon to decipher his copy, to spell a word, or to punctuate his matter. He will be very apt to commit the most preposterous blunders when setting from manuscript, while his proof will resemble map copy in the number of its markings; yet, boys of practically no education, and, oftentimes exceedingly limited in intelligence, are received into printing offices at the instigation of parents who, ignorant themselves, fail to distinguish between the qualifications of art and the occupations in which muscular force is the main requisite, viewing the avocation of Manutius, Caxton, Franklin and Didot in a category with the pounding of tin or the shovelling of coal. The printer, of course, is not responsible for the stupidity and ignorance of a boy; but it is his duty to carefully examine every candidate for admission to his office, and ascertain his fitness before undertaking to teach him his business.

When a boy is first placed at composition, it seems reasonable that he should have some preliminary instruction. He should be made to thoroughly understand the plan of the type boxes, not merely those of the lower-case and caps, but the entire case, without assuming that he will have no occasion to use references, etc., or that if such necessity should arise he may fumble around in the case until he strikes the desired letter. At the same time, he should know why the various letters are arranged in their relative positions, and the necessity of preserving this arrangement in every type-case. With proper attention to this matter, there would be less plying of cases, and no misplacement of the J and U. Probably not 25 per cent. of compositors understand why these letters do not occur in their natural alphabetical order in the upper case. The explanation of this fact would also tend to impress upon the mind the peculiar relation of these letters to the U and V, and avoid confusion in the composition of certain old style types, in which J corresponds to I, and U to V. Compositors frequently complain to the foreman that a case is pie'd, the J's, I's, U's and V's being indiscriminately thrown in the boxes, and they are often seen to carry samples to the proofreader, inquiring which is the letter wanted.

Thorough drilling in the principles of spacing should be adopted, in which the boy is made to understand the letters which require extra space, and those after which the space may be diminished. He can never space uniformly if he fails to comprehend the exact proportions of the spaces. A clear understanding of their relative sizes will obviate the use of three or four together, when more rapid, and, perhaps, more uniform spacing could be had by the employment of one or two larger spaces, and will avoid the disproportionableness so frequently seen, particularly in lines containing colons or semi-colons, as well as save an enormous amount of

time in making alterations. It is not enough that a boy should merely know that five thin spaces, four middle, etc., equal an em quad; he should fully realize their values in relation to each other, and, if he does this, he will be able to form the most economical combinations, and will never use four spaces together, or even three, except in extraordinary instances. This ridiculous practice of using so many spaces is very prevalent, and it seems strange that intelligent printers can be so ignorant of the first principles of their business as to imagine that justification requires the joint use of three five-ems and a four-em, which is so frequently seen. Even the combination of two five-ems and a four-em is unnecessary. Any possible combination less than an em can be approached to within one-sixtieth of an em by the use of two spaces, which, in the case of nonpareil, is about the seven-hundred-and-twentieth of an inch. Such justification as this is not required in diamond tables; and, in fact, leads and large type will vary to that extent.

NOTES.

WITH the current number (December), the Western Law Times completes its fourth volume. This publication, so indispensable to the legal fraternity in Manitoba and the Territories, not only maintains its usual standard of excellence but shows evidences of improvement under the exacting care of the editor, Mr. Archer Martin.

The Canada Paper Co. has issued its famous memorandum Tablet Calendar for 1894. Each sheet is of different quality of paper, and there is one sheet for each week with divisions for each day. It is ahead of lithographed calendars.

The J. L. Morrison Company have a first class No. 6 Pony Campbell press which they wish to dispose of at once. The machine has been very little used, being got for experimental purposes for their "patent paper feeder" that they have just perfected. Any one in want of such a machine will secure a bargain in this press. Mr. Brown would be pleased to give fuller information and price to any desiring this information.

Mr. W. F. Luxton has issued the prospectus of his new Winnipeg paper, which, he says, will probably be started in thirty days. Its name will be the Norwester, and, although it is intended to become a morning, evening and weekly paper, only the evening and weekly will be issued at first. The authorized capital is \$25,000.

Every enterprising printer and publisher should attend the annual meeting of the Press Association to be held in Toronto February 7th and 8th. An excellent practical programme is being prepared, and the promise is for something in advance of anything yet offered to similar gatherings. An outing of this kind removes moss, rust and other things from the brains and minds of the hard-working editor or printer.

Mr. Geo. Warwick, of Warwick Bros. & Rutter, has gone on a flying trip to the Pacific Coast. He will call on the leading printers of Manitoba, the North-West and British Columbia, and will show them as neat a working line of samples as they ever were asked to inspect. Special pains is taken by this firm to show excellent goods in an excellent way, and this is a feature which does them credit. Their other travelers are also out for new trade, Mr. Sutton taking the Maritime Provinces, Mr. Chas. Warwick Western Ontario, and the other travelers their respective routes.