

STANDING AT THE CASE

THE initiatory steps of the apprentice are like the initiatory steps in anything else. They are not dissimilar to those of the child who is taught by its mother to totter across the floor, and so to gain a steady, straight, measured gait.

Boys who start life in a newspaper office where a considerable amount of briskness is required, or in an ordinary jobbing office where the word "rush" is scarcely ever heard, bring with them all their characteristics of school-day life, and indulge for many a long month afterwards in all the eccentricities and fads of this happy time. But they soon begin to see that all this is very much out of place, and that to be tolerated they must alter their entire programme of conduct. This is, indeed, a hard task, but it must be done, and the sooner the conquest is made the better.

Now there is one pernicious habit which haunts ninety-nine out of every hundred boys, and one for the adoption of which they cannot altogether be blamed—this is "standing like a goose in winter," first on one leg and then on the other, when they first start to set type. And again, it is a common practice for boys to stand in a slouching position at the case, while at the same time they make a continual rest of the foot brace. Then comes the change from left to right, and back again from right to left, and so this goes on from week to week until it becomes a confirmed habit, leaving on them certain physical imperfections which certainly do not add to their personal aggrandizement.

Of course it must be admitted that such a habit has been, as a rule, engendered at school, where a number of boys, without any regard to their physical endurance, are compelled to stand up in a class for hours and so to practice the knack of taking temporary rest. There is a very wide chasm between a theoretical school-training, and the real every-day practical training of the apprentice, and to bridge this over must be the work of the boy himself in adapting his physical constitution to the requirements of his work.

In order to do this successfully he must listen to the voice of those who have, so to speak, "gone through the lines" themselves, and follow out faithfully the instructions they may give him. First of all then we would say, do voluntarily for yourself what you would be compelled to do were you placed under such a code of discipline as obtains in the army or navy. This need not go further than to accustom yourself to stand firmly and straight at your case, and to set out your copy without having to "stand at ease" so often.

Avoid, as far as possible, standing in any position which savors of unwieldiness, and which imparts to

the boy the appearance of an old man. Throw your chest out, preserve an erect appearance, avoid a tendency to become round-shouldered, or "knock-kneed," and once you become habituated to the practice of these salutary exercises, you will find yourself immensely improved, not only in bodily health, but also in the manipulation of your case, and in the performance of your work generally.

Besides, there will follow an amount of physical endurance which will go far beyond compensating for any unpleasantness that may arise from the breaking off from those clogging habits that are inseparable from school-life. Once don the armor of manhood and your body swells to the required size to fit it, and from thenceforth conforms to every movement and change with as much ease and comfort as if those changes were part and parcel of your very nature.—*American Art Printer.*

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

WHILE Canadian Publishers are agitating for the payment in advance system, and one that we believe to be fair and just, Major Edwards, of the Fargo, N. S. *Argus*, has strong faith in the slow paying subscriber, and deals with him very leniently. The Major says:—

"I differ from the almost universally expressed theory regarding advance payments. My judgment is that nine men out of ten who read the local paper are honest. The amount required to pay for a year's subscription is small, and many men who have it do not care to bother to send it in. But, if the paper is continued, they will call at the office sooner or later and settle. I have had men come to me and pay three arrearages on the weekly, and two years in advance, as they said, 'to even up.' And then they would tell me why they had not paid before. Sometimes it would be a failure of crops, and sometimes other reasons; but whatever the reason, it was satisfactory. My experience on the Carlinville *Democrat* was that we had a regular daily income from subscriptions that was as sure as death and taxes. We had a large constituency, and subscriptions ran along, year in and year out, with a certainty of payment sooner or later. Of course, there is a class of subscribers that want to pay, and want their paper stopped when the time is out. I adopted a rule long ago to mark opposite the name of these 'S.W.O.'—stop when out. All others I have let run. It is worth a year's subscription to a weekly paper to get a good man's name on the list, and if he is treated properly, you have secured a life-time patron."

During the autumn gales the volume of nature is full of fly leaves.