

If the paper is started without a properly arranged list of headings, it is often the case that ideas occur to the author as the paper progresses, and in order to get them into their proper places, he must insert them in the subject-matter at some point previous to where he is writing—in doing which he usually destroys that rhythmic harmony that should ring throughout the paper from beginning to end.

The preparation of MS. for the printer is a subject which might appear of such minor importance that its consideration would seem uncalled for in a paper like this, and yet it is a matter which in the aggregate causes no end of worry, and—must it be admitted?—considerable justifiable profanity on the part of editors of dental journals. The first copy of a paper is usually disfigured by frequent interlinings, erasures and corrections of various kinds; and no man of any conscience will read a paper before a society in that condition, much less turn it in to the editor for publication. It is well when the first draft is completed to put away the paper in a pigeonhole and leave it for as long a time as convenient, until the author grows unfamiliar with its phraseology. It should then be read aloud to see how it sounds, and it will usually be found that defects present themselves, which in the first flush of composition had been overlooked. When the paper has been carefully corrected, it should be copied in a clear, plain hand, or, what is preferable, with a typewriter. Typewritten copy is manifestly so much better than the writing of the average professional man, that some societies specify that papers presented for publication must be typewritten. No paper should be read before a society or offered for publication without careful attention to a certain point which is quite frequently entirely ignored by authors. This relates to the title of the paper, the name of the author, his place of residence, etc. Too often are papers handed to the editor without the slightest indication, so far as the MS. is concerned, as to what they are about, or by whom they were written, or where they were read; and the sublime complacency of the authors is epitomized in the remark recently made by one of them, "What are editors for, anyhow?" It may here be modestly intimated that editors are not for the purpose of divining hidden mysteries such as are sometimes presented for their solution, and the sooner writers recognize this, the better it will be for the author's peace of mind and the editor's prospect of heaven. When the typewritten copy is made, it should contain first the title of the paper, then the name of the society before which it is to be read, with date of meeting, the name of the author, with his degrees, and the town and State where he resides.

The question of punctuation is sometimes a matter of importance, but no rules can be given that will benefit the average writer except probably the one rule of common sense. A word of ad-