

names, after the manner of "Gulliver's Travels." In 1746, Dr. Johnson, then a young man of thirty, tried his powerful pen at Parliamentary reporting. Cave and his assistants were concealed in the gallery of the House. For a time this system of secrecy succeeded. There is little doubt but that Cave furnished Johnson with the raw material of the speeches, and Johnson worked them into shape. At last Cave was prosecuted, and for twenty years the battle raged, and fines and imprisonment were frequent. Gradually shorthand forced its way into the House, in spite of all opposition, and now-a-days, reporters are considered as necessary as long-winded speakers to "make a House."

#### AMONG THE MAGAZINES AND BOOKS.

The *Phonographic Review* is one of the most interesting of our English exchanges. It is specially the organ of the ever-circulators. Every page of matter is readable. S. G. Jarman, Church street, Tiverton, England, is the editor.

The June number of the *Hamilton School Magazine* is, as usual, excellent in every respect. The contents are varied and of a character suited to the taste of those who are interested in educational matters. The magazine is a credit to the excellent Collegiate Institute from which it is issued.

The *Journalist* for July, published in London,

opens with an article on and lithographed portrait of Thomas Cooper, journalist and chartist. This monthly is well printed and illustrated. Both it and Mr. T. A. Reed's *Reporter* for the month contain extracts from the *Times* article on Telephonic Reporting.

The *Yorkshire Phonographer* is a sixteen-page monthly, all being lithographed shorthand. It is a new venture. In it may be found some well-written matter and judicious selections that are of interest to phonographers. J. Rhodes, Lawkhone Lane, Keighley, England, is its editor and publisher.

We have received from the Secretary a supply of the "Proceedings of the New York State Stenographers' Association, including Amended Constitution, By-Laws, Papers read, etc., at the Fourth Annual Meeting held at Saratoga Springs, N. Y." The volume contains 150 pp. The papers are very interesting, and we are instructed to send a copy to any address, postage paid, on receipt of 50c.

The *Dietetic Reformer and Vegetarian Messenger* is an interesting monthly, published in London, Eng., by Fred Pitman. The motto of the magazine is:—"Fix upon that course of life which is best: custom will render it most delightful." We believe Vegetarianism is much better and more palatable than Tannerism, and this magazine dishes up celery and such like in a most toothsome fashion.

### Helps and Hints to Students.

**A** NUMBER of questions have been asked since the publication, in the May number, of the specimen queries and replies.

A learner asks us to "join the alphabet all together, because with those that have no teachers it is rather hard to learn; because when they are trying to join them, they would not know which letter is to go above the line or below." We never felt the need of such a conglomeration, and we imagine the questioner has a good deal yet to learn regarding the rules for combination; but if others have not been able to find in the text-books the knowledge sought, we shall be happy to supply it.

A subscriber propounds this conundrum:—"A friend of mine—not a shorthand reporter, but interested in the subject—and who knows, he says, either personally or indirectly, about all the leading shorthand writers in the United States, makes this strong assertion: That there is not a *verbatim* shorthand reporter in the United States; and no doubt he would assert the same of other countries. He says that it is physically impossible to take a *verbatim* report of a speech which is an hour or an hour and a half long, and is delivered at the rate of 150 words per minute. He says the re-

port is necessarily a partial one, and is fixed up afterwards from memory." The "friend" of our friend is "not a shorthand reporter." This would seem to render an explanation unnecessary; yet, the author of the "strong assertion" seems to be thoroughly acquainted with "shorthand expedients"—such as "fixing up" speeches. We might infer that he got this "wrinkle" from the "leading shorthand writers" with whom he professes to be on such intimate terms, and the only explanation of the matter is that these "leading" brethren have broken down their physical constitutions by eating too much dyspeptic pie-crust, and are unfitted to bear the strain of 150. What have our United States friends to say on this subject? The production of the unknown "friend" is very, very rich.

A student who writes seventy words per minute, wants to know how long it takes to reach a speed of 125 or 150. This question involves several others, to which we first require answers. What is your age? Your parentage? State your mental capacity and precocity; your early educational advantages; your present knowledge of grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.; give size of chest and capacity of lungs; also your muscular activity and nervous irritability.