

man can't fill a position in an office or a shop, if he can't sell matches or shoe-strings on the street, you can make a journalist out of him. Then he can write intelligently on any and every subject under the sun. I know what I am talking about, for I am a journalist myself."

In short, there are three necessary qualifications: Firstly, knowledge, general and specialized, ability to "write on any and every subject under the sun." Secondly, news sense, which includes the ability to get the news as well as to know it. Thirdly, ability to write quickly, concisely, and in almost any circumstances. Newspaper style is often sneered at, and no one knows its shortcomings better than the man who writes it. But he cannot help himself. His reports are not written in a quiet, comfortable library with books of reference about and hours of time ahead. His work is done too often in a crowded court room or public hall, on a swaying express train or in a noisy telegraph office where the operator snatches each sheet from beneath his hand before the last word is completed. At best it is done in the local newspaper room, where the reporter's meditations are interrupted by the rattle of typewriters, the hum of the linotypes, the roar of the giant presses, the dreary groan of the stereotypers' saw, or the city editor's impatient admonition to "hurry up that story, as the compositors are short of copy." There is no time there to pause for precision or force, no chance to round out the paragraph or verify the quotation. The reporter gets the habit of writing under pressure and on occasions when more time and better opportunities offer, he is unable to take advantage of them. It is a pity that the very agency which has set itself the task of maintaining the best British traditions should allow itself through haste and slovenliness to mar the beauty of the English tongue. But with the necessity of keeping pace with the rush of events in modern times ever before it, it is difficult to see how it can do other than it does.

There is an almost irresistible fascination about newspaper work. It appeals to the adventurous spirit in a man. The excitement, the constant variety, the daily struggle for a complete product cast their subtle influence over one. The newspaper man has opportunities better than most of seeing human nature in all its phases; he comes into contact with so many different types of life, and sees and speaks with so many different people. People are always interesting, when they are themselves, and the reporter, dealing with them, as a rule, when something unusual affects them, catches them off their guard and sees beneath the conventional veneer. All sorts and conditions of men are his legitimate prey. He will interview any body from prime-ministers and chief justices to wharf rats and sneak thieves. The variety of work is almost infinite, things seldom have to be done twice. Journalism too, is a fighting profession, and most men, whether they will admit it or not, dearly love a fight. Newspapers must take sides on important questions. It is expected of them, and as leaders of public opinion, they can do no less. They may be independent. They must be independent, if they are to speak disinterestedly and with real power. But