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# Le Sténographe Canadien

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## SHORTHAND IN TEN EASY LESSONS.

### LESSON VIII.—W and Y Series of Diphthongs.

Though the principle that we have to treat of in this lesson does not admit of such extended application as that principle which formed the chief subject of our last study, it is yet of such importance as to call for your earnest and undivided attention. Before discussing the W and Y series at length, it may be necessary to offer a few remarks on the course which you should pursue with regard to the principles of abbreviation set forth in the last lesson and in the present one. It is almost impossible for the novice to adopt and apply, in the course of one lesson, more than two or three of the more important principles of the art, notwithstanding the numerous examples that are interspersed in the text (for we hold with Dr. Johnson that "an art is best taught by examples").

We advise you therefore to confine your practice in Phonography—apart, of course, from a set study therein—in the first instance, to the simpler principles of the art, and to cultivate at the outset what may be termed a long or full style of Phonography, rather than a highly abbreviated one. Let the principles have time to settle in your mind and mature. You must expect at first to find your progress so slow as to seem merely creeping. That progress, however, is real.

These remarks obviously are not intended to check you in your study of the art, which should be persisted in without any shirking. Keep up your enthusiasm: The reward is worth the labor; for it means a cultivated intellect and a refined mind. We have known many whose experience tallies on this point. Your interest is little likely to flag, or your mind to weary, so long as you keep up the practice of reading printed shorthand works, in which a constant succession of forms new and strange leads to the pleasant expedient of making experiments in outlines, and keeps the mind in a state of perpetual activity and expectation. No matter how inelegant or inaccurate what you produce may be; elegance and accuracy, being the natural outgrowth of experience, can come but by degrees. Of one thing you may be certain; that the more time you devote to Phonography, the shorter will be your period of probation, and the speedier your success. The two things that you have to bear in mind are: (1) That while you read as much as you write; and (2) that while your practice should be limited to first principles, you should, nevertheless, work hard at each untried application of any given rule, in order that your knowledge of it may be perfected.

A series of diphthongs whose first element is *i*

or *y* may be heard in the words India, alien, idiot, folio, value. Another series is formed with *oo* or *u*. Systematic signs for these diphthongs are shown on page 35 of the "Teacher."

These signs, like those for simple vowels, are written heavy for long vowels and light for short ones. Self-taught students of Phonography usually find much difficulty in clearly understanding and accurately employing this series of diphthongs. The part they play in the representation of words is by no means unimportant, as will be seen upon examination of the illustrative words given. A thorough mastery of the principle is indispensable to success.

Read page 35 of the "Teacher," and you will see that the second of the *u* signs (2) may be employed before *k, g, m*, instead of the full alphabetical sign *u*; thus, *u* week. Com-

pare *u* awake, with *u* wake. The long and short *u* and *oo* may be joined to *k, g, m*, upward *r*, and a few other letters when the joining is convenient, to represent *u* and the vowel in connection with it; thus, *u* Walker.

*u* water. A slightly varied form of *u* added to *l* makes the double consonant *lu*.

It should be remembered that the shorthand signs for the double letters of the *u* and *y* series are always written in the same direction; that is, they do not accommodate themselves to the consonant to which they may be written, as do the signs for the simple vowels *ax, oh, oo*.

Work for this month to end of exercise 60.

Those of our readers who are desirous of taking up this valuable course of shorthand lessons, can do so by purchasing the "Phonographic Teacher", "Key to Phonographic Teacher", and two of Isaac Pitman & Sons' Students' Note-Books No. 1. These works will be sent postpaid by the Copp, Clark Co. Ltd., 64 Front Street, West, Toronto, on receipt of 50 cents.