

the little machine is growing more popular, and soon the type-writer will be as much an institution here as it is in America, where it is most extensively used. A beginner earns from eight to twelve shillings a week; when proficient from twenty to thirty shillings. The operator is generally paid by the folio of seventy-two words, or per thousand words. Sometimes the work is given out, but as a rule it is done at the offices, where machines are provided, as authors, playwrights and barristers, who form the bulk of those who seek the aid of the typist, prefer to know that their precious MSS. are in responsible hands. The type-writer is much patronised also by clergymen who generally write unintelligibly even to themselves, and, above all, is quite superseding the law copying clerk of yore. The office hours are long—nine to 5.30, and often later still, when there is any extra pressure of work on. It takes a month to learn the type-writer well, practising three hours each day, but with it more even than with most things, the old proverb, "Practice makes perfect," holds good. Miss Dickens gives lessons for £2 2s. the course of four weeks. She cannot guarantee situations afterwards, but always recommends her pupils. The speed attained differs, some being much quicker writers than others. The maximum is from seventy to eighty words a minute; racing speed, such as that attained by the young American lately in a competition of one hundred and sixty words per minute, does not really count, as the words are made to average four letters each only. It is best to commence to learn young, as the fingers are more flexible. Type-writing clerks and secretaries are paid by the week or year as usual. They are becoming more and more in demand as Englishmen more and more learn to appreciate this clever little American invention. The Remington machine still keeps the foremost place, and is best for office work, as it wears well. The price is £22. It can be purchased at the depôt by a deposit of £5 and the rest by instalments. It can also be hired by the month or quarter if more convenient, at twenty-five shillings per month. The Hall and Hammond are both cheaper and are very good machines. The latter, used in the north quite as much as Remington's, costs about £12.

"THOSE who know shorthand assist their husbands." So runs a well-known advertisement. Those who know shorthand will find it of benefit if they think of seeking by type-writing a means of livelihood, for the two are often combined for clerkships. Both unknown to our great grandmothers, both most likely to be superseded in their turn by the seemingly miraculous phonograph.

ON the other side of the water Mr. Walter Besant's ideal heroine in his famous book, "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," has become a reality. Some young American "sweet girl graduates" are about to settle in one of the poorest neighbourhoods of New York city, in the hope of being able, by preaching and example, to raise the moral tone of the people around them. Sarcastic folk will, I find, hint that they are in league with the great soap manufacturers, for their crusade is against dirt, and "Cleanliness" is their war-cry. There is truly scope for their labours, for dirt is as popular with the masses in the New as it still continues to be in the Old World, and, alas, emigration does not teach the people intuitively "to bathe," and that "washing gives cold" is still a popular delusion, especially with "those Irish." Good luck, then, to our young sisters in their novel warfare, for "Cleanliness" is, despite the *vox populi*, "next to godliness," as they all allow who have tried.

MISS BRADDON has just published a new novel, which I hear on good authority is her fifty-first book since her famous "Lady Audley's Secret" was written twenty-seven years ago, being at the rate of two a year. This savours of the steam of machinery. Does Miss Braddon ever forget, I wonder, her own books? Strange thought! To read a novel through, think, as everyone does, how well *you* could improve on it, and imagine how *you* would have arranged the tale and concluded it differently, and then to discover it is your own—your very own, all the time. But even this might happen when one has written a Jubilee novel. Was the day of its publication kept with due honour, and "golden" presents given to celebrate the happy event?

A COURSE of lessons on foreign cookery is to be given at the Dorothy Restaurant, Oxford Street. The Indian dishes will be a speciality. I always advocate cooking lessons on principle. Half the ills of life arise from indigestion, oftentimes caused by bad cooking. I am sure when once women at last discover the royal road to the heart of man, which hitherto they have failed to find because they have searched too high, the art of cooking will degenerate into woman's grandest science, and young ladies will consider the degree B.A.C. a proud distinction. Oh, who among the bequeathers of strange bequests will devote their gold to the foundation of a university for learning this lost art?

MISS JULIE SEARLE, of the Alhambra Theatre, has lately read a paper at the Church and Stage Guild on her experience as a *danseuse*. It comes

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