

of himself and his subsequent editors and publishers, not less than 50,000 copies of Rich's system were promulgated. They are not unfrequently met with.

*Weston, James.*—In 1772 Weston published "Stenography completed, or the Art of Shorthand brought to Perfection." "By this new method," said the title page, "any who can but tolerably write their names in round hand, may with ease, by this book alone, without any teacher, take down from ye speaker's mouth any sermon, speech, trial, play, etc., word by word, though they know nothing of Latin, and may likewise read one another's writing distinctly, be it ever so long after it is written. To perform these by any other method extant, is utterly impossible; as is evident from the books themselves." All this was very attractive; perhaps not the less so from being entirely untrue. It was an obvious attempt to outdo Rich. The book itself is one of the most beautiful ever issued from the press, or rather from the hands of the engraver. It is from copper plate almost entirely, having no less than 86 engraved pages, with a noble portrait of the author. It was also protected by a special patent from King George I., giving the author the "Royal Privilege and Licence for the sole publishing and printing thereof for the term of fourteen years," on account of the great labor and expense of fitting the work for the press. It was published at one guinea, and as a work of art was cheap at that price. It passed through a number of editions speedily—no less than 9 down to 1748. I have the two earliest editions. The book is by no means uncommon. It commends itself to second-hand booksellers, who occasionally ask an absurd price for it. In several of the copies I have seen, as also in one of my own, there is written in the splendid caligraphy of the author, "This book is not to be lent out of your own house; it being sold to you on that condition by me, James Weston." Then follows a receipt for the purchase money with the name of the purchaser and a further memorandum: "The last leaf shows how to learn by this book."

*Gurney, Thomas, and others.*—The earliest edition of Brachygraphy with which we have heretofore been familiar, was published in 1750. Mr Rockwell, on the authority of a statement in the 17th edition, puts the first issue as early as 1740. The edition marked as the second was published in 1752. There were several intermediate editions of undefined dates, and we reach the 8th in 1772. The 9th, by Joseph Gurney, was published in Manchester in 1773. Various editions by different members of the Gurney family follow, till finally we reach the 17th edition published by Butterworth, law bookseller, London, in 1869. This was a twelve mo. book, with 70 pages, and 11 plates, with portrait, etc. Gurney's shorthand will always maintain a special interest from its being the one employed in the official work of