

fortunate moment I met with Isaac Pitman's Phonography, but for which I probably should never have become a practical shorthand writer.

While as a young man I did a good deal of reporting, for the last 35 years I have used Phonography chiefly for literary purposes—for professional purposes usually employing a phonographer, to whom I dictate. I desire here to speak of the ability of many of the young men so employed. Some have speedily found more remunerative openings, and have become secretaries, public accountants, literary men, etc. Shorthand does unquestionably sharpen the intellect.

In the active years of professional life I did not go on purchasing shorthand books. The sale of Mr Lewis' library (already spoken of) in some degree stirred me up again, and I purchased a great many of the works thus offered. I ought to have purchased them all and exchanged my duplicates. The formation of the Shorthand Society in 1881, really put me upon my mettle; but other buyers were now in the field, and I have not made many important additions. Every year adds something. My collection now stands about thus. Total, say 400 volumes; made up as follows: English systems, 300; foreign, 40; various works relating to the subject, 60. I have about twenty of the 17th century authors; and a manuscript copy of Bright, as also of the "Grand Master."

*British Museum.*—The National Library of England is by no means so rich in shorthand literature as could be desired. It must be remembered indeed, that the library itself is not an old one. It originated in 1753 with a grant of Parliament of £20,000 to the daughters of Sir Hans Sloane, in payment for his fine library, and vast collections of nature and art which had cost him £50,000. Other libraries have been added, but these not of such a character as to have made stenography, or cryptography, a speciality. The first marked acquisition of early shorthand systems dates back only to the dispersion of Mr Lewis's books in 1871. There probably is not in this library at the present moment more than from 750 to 800 shorthand books, old and new, British and foreign, stenographic and phonographic.

Dr Westby-Gibson confirms this estimate. He says: "I don't think from the British Museum catalogues and admission into the galleries, I could make up a list of more than 650 to 700 distinct works of all nations in this interesting chapter of literature." But, he adds, "The store is always being increased, however, and especially since the Shorthand Society brought it into higher importance;" *vide* letter, 26th July, 1884. In a later note he says, "There are no copies of Bright, 1588; Bales, 1590; Folkingham, 1618; Labourer, 1620; Willoughby, mentioned by Coles, 1621; Witt H., 1630; Mawd, 1635; Farthing, 1654;