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AN ACCOUNT

DESCRIBING ALL THE POINTS OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH

THE THIRD

International Shorthand Congress

MUNICH, 1890.

BY

HENRY RICHTER,

*Official Representative of the Congress Committee ;
President of The Shorthand Society and The G. R. Phonographic Society ;
Honorary Member of
The Gabelsberger Shorthand Societies of New York and Munich ;
Author of Graphic Shorthand.*

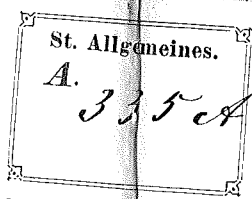
1890.



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THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SHORTHAND CONGRESS, MUNICH, 1890.

THE publication of the present volume involves the performance of a moral duty. Unworthy attempts have been made in this country, under the ingeniously arranged cover of the Congress, to cast an undeserved slur on the system whose inventor happens to be associated with the festivities in Munich, and as that very insinuation is calculated to unfavorably reflect on the Congress, it is my bounden duty to expose the unprovoked attack levelled by an English Shorthand Journal at one of Germany's noblest sons.

It should be understood at the outset that the Munich festivities consisted of two parts, (1) that specially reserved to the writers of Gabelsberger's system, and (2) the International Congress. It is not a suggestion, but an absolute fact, that that arrangement had been modelled after the London Congress of 1887, which also consisted of two parts, namely, (1) that exclusively reserved for the Pitman system and (2) an International part. Now, I will ask any fair-minded Englishman what his opinion would have been of a serious German Shorthand Journal, if, on describing in a leading article the proposed arrangement of the *International Congress*, had denounced the *Pitman system* as a very imperfect mode as compared to those used in Germany, and that Englishmen would perhaps one day awake to the superiority of the German plan. I have no doubt they would with indignation have said: What on earth has the superiority or inferiority of the Pitman or the German system to do with the International Congress? coming without much hesitation to the conclusion that there must be a reason.

I am grieved from the bottom of my heart to say that the English shorthand press has been prostituted, in the manner described, by Mr. Isaac Pitman with regard to the German Congress, in his *Phonetic Journal*. It might be urged that the reference was accidental, and not intentional, but it will be seen from these pages that Mr. Pitman, though trying to twist himself out of it, has deliberately refused to publish an explanatory letter, which I had addressed to him in his capacity as editor of that journal, on the subject. He even asserted in personal letters to me that his article was perfectly fair and justified. In exposing his public conduct, I shall be compelled also to publish the personal letters referred to, and I am so much more entitled to adopt this course, since Mr. Pitman himself, when he finally saw that matters were becoming unpleasant for him, published certain paragraphs torn out of the

context of a private letter I had sent him, quietly leading his readers to assume that that was the correction, on the insertion of which I had insisted. By what name such conduct on the part of an English gentleman is to be described, I do not propose to say.

The precise facts, then, are these.

In the *Phonetic Journal* for June 21st, 1890, Mr. Pitman published a leading article entitled "The next International Shorthand Congress," three-quarters of which are occupied by the reproduction of the official programme, and anyone will readily convince himself that not a word is said in that programme about the superiority of any particular system, neither the Gabelsberger nor any other. Yet, in the last quarter of his article, immediately after the reproduction of the Congress programme, and, without any introduction, Mr. Pitman continues: "As our readers know, Gabelsberger's system is constructed on a basis unlike that of phonography. Whereas the development of shorthand in England has led to the supremacy of methods built up from a geometrical basis, the vast resources of which no one would have suspected beforehand, Gabelsberger, with great ingenuity, adapted the signs of his alphabet from the forms of the ordinary German longhand, and kept the writing on the slope of the ordinary longhand. This involves forms very much longer than those of phonography. Mr. Reed, a few years ago, described the method as a 'very imperfect mode, as compared with the systems generally practised in England.' This opinion we consider a sound one. But it must be admitted that the opinion is not extensively shared in Germany. Perhaps some day our Teutonic brethren will awake to the value and superiority of the plan which has grown up as the result of the whole course of English stenographic experience, and will see that, as England was first in the shorthand field, so the principles which have gained pre-eminence here, are destined to spread over the globe."

That a comment of this description immediately following the reproduction of the German programme, which, so far as the Congress is concerned, does not in the slightest degree attempt or desire to establish a supremacy of the Gabelsberger system over Pitman's, is a highly unfair and unwarrantable proceeding, is clear to everybody, and a strong rejoinder would have been justified. Nevertheless, I preferred to consider this extraordinary way of dealing with an International Congress as "accidental," so that a mere correction in the *Phonetic Journal* would have been sufficient to meet the case. Guided by these considerations, I addressed, on June 24th, the following letter to Mr. Pitman personally:—"As regards your article in last week's 'Journal,' I think it is a pity that you should have put such extraordinary stress on Gabelsberger's supposed inferiority on just this occasion. What we want to celebrate is not his supposed superiority over your system or anybody else's, and for this reason I do believe it would have been kinder and more gracious on your part if you had not referred to any comparison between the two systems. I hope you will admit the justice of these remarks, and insert the accompanying letter, which I have endeavoured so to frame that it will merely correct the erroneous impression likely to be produced by some mis-statements in your article, whilst your susceptibilities will not in any way be trespassed upon."

"If I should be able to go to Munich in August, I hope to be of service to you occasionally, whenever you may wish to apply to me."

"You will notice in the enclosed a reference to the Shorthand Society. I have inserted the same in order to indicate that the business of the Society will be conducted in the same impartial manner as it was under Mr. Petrie's presidency."

The enclosure was as follows:—

To the Editor of the "PHONETIC JOURNAL."

MY DEAR SIR,

Considering the excellent relations that have always existed between your system and ours, I am rather sorry to see you depreciate in your issue of the 21st inst. our grand old Gabelsberger, whose system, by the way, is not based upon ordinary German longhand, as you state, but upon ordinary Latin, or English longhand. If you wished to contest the adaptability of the system to the English language, that would be a fair field for argument, but to assert the superiority—for which there is no foundation in fact—of the geometric plan for the German language, that, I venture to submit, is going too far. After Gabelsberger not a single native geometric system has been constructed in Germany, although the ancient German models and the modern English ones have been before the authors. From this fact alone the conclusion would be justified that, at least as far as Germans are concerned, a current writing is more congenial to their hand than an angular one, and daily practice has testified for nearly three-quarters of a century that the Gabelsberger system is fully equal to the hardest task.

Also allow me to say that we do not admit that the system involves forms very much longer than those of "Phonography," but I will not take up your space with anything relating to the technical points of the system. I shall be glad to argue the same, say, for instance, before the Shorthand Society, of which, you will allow me to inform your readers, I have been elected the President for the ensuing session.

Thanking you for the insertion of this letter, and hoping that your Exhibition at the forthcoming Munich Congress will very favorably impress my German friends and the rest of the Shorthand World there assembled,

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY RICHTER.

A reply came back by return of post, dated Bath, 25th June, in which Mr. Pitman says this:—

The reference to the German system in the *Journal* No. 25 cannot, I think, be justly complained of. I think it is impossible on the G. principle to get so brief and so legible a Shorthand for writing English as on the geometric principle.

I have kept a copy of this brief note for the purpose of comparing it with a copy in G.'s system, written by yourself, if you will kindly furnish it, expressing the same number of sounds in each word.

I will refrain from commenting upon this most extraordinary letter, but rather let my answer speak for itself.

ISAAC PITMAN, ESQ., Bath.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to thank you for your letter of 25th inst., in which, however, you do not touch upon any of the points contained in my letter to you of 23rd inst., and in the accompanying letter to the "Editor." The real point at issue was that I did not see the fairness of your unfavorably commenting upon Gabelsberger as compared to Phonography, on the occasion of a leading article on Gabelsberger's centenary, and the International Congress, seeing that such depreciative remarks made in this connection are likely to detract in the eyes of your readers from the merits of that historic event. For this reason I asked you for the favor of inserting my letter, and I sincerely trust that you have done so.

The next thing that I considered unfair is that, in the article referred to, you said that the geometric plan was superior to Gabelsberger's for the German language, and for that assertion I held there was no foundation in fact. To this point you have not replied either.

In connection with the same I disputed your assumption that our outlines were very much longer than yours, and if in your reply you should have intended to investigate this point by asking me to transcribe your letter into Gabelsberger, for the purpose of comparison, I may be allowed to point out that a comparison of the two systems for the *English* language has not been in question at all, and that in order to prove the correctness of your assumption, a German passage ought to have been taken. This is evidently not a question of opinion, but of facts, as evidenced by the contents of your article in the *Journal* of 21st June, and my letters of 23rd June.

1- However, since you now introduce the entirely fresh point of comparing the two systems for the English language, I should, perhaps, be considered disobliging if I did not cheerfully supply you with the transcript you desire, although this matter has really nothing to do with the subject of your article and my reply. The comparison, however, cannot be a fair one, inasmuch as the Gabelsberger system does not express as few sounds to each word as yours does. We write considerably more sounds to each word even in the Reporting Style. The sounds we omit in the latter are unmistakably to be inferred by the rules of the system, but inasmuch as it would require too much time to prove that that is so, I have confined myself to the transcription of your letter in the full style showing each precise sound—vowels and consonants—in their precise places; except in Grammalogues, of which there are about eighty for the whole English language. The writing is rather *larger* than usual, and I consider that even this superfluously fully written note does not involve longer outlines than yours, although the latter are considerably contracted. I should also add that our outlines may with impunity be largely distorted and be written in any slope to which any individual writer may be accustomed.

I also find that you have had to lift the pen 146 times, as against 111 times in 'Gabelsberger, and yet by that considerable additional effort you are only able to express few out of the total number of vowels occurring; and, last but not least, the 'shortness of an outline' chiefly, if not wholly, consists in the shortness of time within which it may conveniently be written, and not in the picture presented to the eye.

In conclusion, I have to thank you for having given this matter so much of your extremely valuable time, but I have honestly endeavored to compensate you for the sacrifice.

The next page contains a photographic reproduction of both Mr. Pitman's note written in the shortest Reporting Style and my transcription into Gabelsberger, written in the fullest possible style.

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To this letter Mr. Pitman replied as follows on 2nd July :—

As to my not replying to all the matters in your former communication, I am so laden with work that I cannot reply to every communication I receive through the post.

Read again *Phonetic Journal*, page 289, last paragraph, and you will see that I did *not* say that "a geometric system is superior to a script system for the German language." I only say *perhaps* the Germans will find out that it is so. At present there is no good German geometric shorthand to compare with Gabelsberger.

Judging by all the script systems that I have seen, I consider that a geometric scheme is best for English. My acquaintance with Gabelsberger and my ignorance of the German language would not justify my not seeing that a geometric system would be superior to a script plan for German.

I thank you for making a Gabelsberger transcription of my note. On comparing the two I think that Phonography is shorter for the writer, thus that it takes less time, is easier for the hand, and more legible as containing less strokes to be deciphered. Farewell.

To the last paragraph I have not replied, as I consider it too childish to deserve a reply. But it shows Mr. Pitman's character. After having distinctly told him—if indeed he should not before this have acquainted himself with the most widely circulated shorthand system in the world, so as to be able to see for himself—that the two specimens cannot be compared with each other on account of the vast difference in the quantity of sounds which they represent—a difference of more than 50 per cent.—Mr. Pitman comes to the conclusion that his system is shorter than Gabelsberger's! But as this matter had really nothing to do with the point under discussion, as I had also distinctly stated in my letter, I confined myself to reply to the other points. I should also point out that it was only on receipt of that letter that I really could believe that Mr. Pitman would refuse the insertion of my letter, and having once come to that conclusion I had to frame my answer accordingly. It was as follows :—

* As regards the rest of your letter, I cannot help expressing my disappointment and astonishment at the manner in which you think it right to deal with the subject of my complaint. You say that you are so laden with work that you cannot reply to every communication received. Allow me to remind you that my communications were made to explain the unfairness and incorrectness of your statements on page 289 of your *Journal*, and you say you had not the time to reply to them. That statement I prefer not to comment upon, as it sufficiently speaks for itself; but you certainly had the time to introduce the totally fresh point of comparing our system with yours for the English language, which had never been under discussion. If time was so much an object, I would suggest you might have stuck to the point and left fresh matters alone.

In referring to what you said on page 289, you have made a mistake. You said this: "Perhaps some day our Teutonic brethren will awake to the value and superiority of the plan which has grown up, etc." This sentence immediately follows after the statement "that the opinion is not extensively shared in Germany." Therefore you clearly state that the English plan is superior to the Gabelsberger system as practised in Germany, and I have to repeat once more that there is no foundation in fact for such an assertion. You did *not* say that that is "perhaps" so; the "perhaps" refers to your opinion that Germans would "perhaps awake some day" to a superiority which you assumed to exist.

* The omitted portion deals with Mr. Pitman's Exhibits.

These statements, then, you say you do not consider unfair, a conclusion which I deeply deplore. But supposing for argument's sake that the above and the other statements to which I have previously called attention as erroneous were correct, even then you have entirely evaded the point of my complaint which, as I clearly and repeatedly stated, consists in the fact of your having brought the supposed inferiority of Gabelsberger so prominently in connection with the commemoration of his hundredth birthday. Gabelsberger is and remains the founder of modern German shorthand upon whom all subsequent German authors have built. That is the man whose centenary we are going to celebrate, and whatever fault may be found with his system, that will not in the least affect the honour which is due to him in that respect, and therefore I repeat that your article was one of the unkindest and unfairest things you could possibly have published in this connection. The fact, however, that you are not open to admit that, is a source of grievous disappointment to me, and I am compelled by your action to give publicity to this correspondence at the Congress and elsewhere, in order to remove, as far as lies in my power, the injury which your remarks are calculated to have upon the memory of Germany's greatest shorthand author, and which you refuse to acknowledge or redress.

My readers who have kindly followed the correspondence to this point will have noticed the skilful manner in which Mr. Pitman attempted to evade the point, branching off into side issues, twisting mine and his own words, but always refusing to do justice to the cause he had wronged for the sole purpose of satisfying his immeasurable ambition—not to use a stronger word—at our expense. The crowning piece of impertinence, however, of which Mr. Pitman has made himself guilty in this connection, is the following paragraph, which he inserted in his *Journal* of July 19th. He was evidently led by the idea that the publication or correction which I had announced in my last letter could only be of a summary description and would therefore fall flat if he published, before I could have time to do so myself, an explanation which must appear extremely reasonable to anybody who was not in full possession of the facts. Being cognisant, however, of that correspondence in full, my readers will now be able to form their own opinion on the incredible amount of impertinence which Mr. Pitman has infused into the paragraph to which I have just alluded. It is as follows :

"Mr. Henry Richter writes complaining of the observation in our article (page 289, last paragraph) that the geometrical method upon which Phonography is based, is superior for the purposes of shorthand to the Script method upon which Gabelsberger's system rests. There is no foundation, says Mr. Richter, for such an assertion."

At this point I must interrupt the quotation of this paragraph for the purpose of drawing immediate attention to the deliberate untruth which Mr. Pitman commits. What I complained of was that he contrasted at all two systems, never mind in whose favor, on the occasion of, and in direct connection with, the International Congress, and the assertion for which I said there was no foundation in fact, was the supposed superiority of the geometric plan for the *German language*. That I have distinctly and repeatedly stated in my letters to Mr. Pitman, and I must leave my readers to form their own judgment of the character of a man who is capable of a perversion of my argument in that manner.

The paragraph in the *Phonetic Journal* continues as follows:

"That is the opinion which we should expect from Mr. Richter as an ardent follower of Gabelsberger, and we do not in the least complain of his holding and expressing it. But we are sure that Mr. Richter on reflection will admit that we are equally entitled to dissent from his opinion. Nothing was further from our desire than any attempt to depreciate Gabelsberger, for whose great services to shorthand we feel the utmost admiration. But Mr. Richter must remember that writers of all systems are invited to attend the celebration in honor of the great German Stenographer. In paying honor to the man and to his work, they will not be expected to subscribe to the proposition that all other systems are inferior to his. We regret very much that Mr. Richter should take offence at our remarks; but we really fail to see that the temperate expression of one's opinion is a reasonable ground of complaint. Mr. Richter says 'Gabelsberger is and remains the founder of modern Teutonic shorthand upon whom all German shorthand authors have built. That is the man whose centenary we are going to celebrate, and whatever fault may be found with his system, that will not affect in the least the honor due to him in that respect.' With these observations we cordially concur. We shall join as heartily as Mr. Richter himself in offering our tribute of respect to the 'Founder of modern Teutonic shorthand,' and we sincerely hope that Mr. Richter's 'soreness' will disappear before the day upon which the shorthand writers of the world assemble at Munich to unite with him in paying homage to the great man whose cause he so vigorously espouses."

On what grounds Mr. Pitman can possibly consider himself justified in reminding me that writers of all systems are invited, and that they will thereby not subscribe to Gabelsberger's superiority, is an enigma to me, after I had written to him on June 24th that, "What we want to celebrate is not his supposed superiority over your system or anybody else's." But that letter Mr. Pitman carefully suppressed, and indeed taxes me with the very intention which I have distinctly repudiated. The reason is not far to seek, but I will not do that gentleman the honor of occupying myself any further with him, seeing that his public character is sufficiently drawn by his own conduct. I will only still mention what my readers will have noticed already, that the paragraph which Mr. Pitman cites is taken from a letter not intended for publication, whilst he suppresses the one I had sent for that purpose. The fact of this being so is, of course, also suppressed.

In conclusion, let me warn Mr. Pitman that a giant like Gabelsberger, the most widely circulated system of the whole world, does not allow himself to be trifled with, and that the present pages are only just a reminder that "we are there." We have shown all along that we are animated by a sincere desire of fostering friendly relations with all systems, but want on provocation we will visit with the whole severity of the punishment it deserves.

THE STENOGRAPHENFEST.

The whole festivities may be divided into three parts, viz. :—

- (1) Proceedings of the German Gabelsberger Shorthand Federation.
- (2) Unveiling of the Gabelsberger Statue.
- (3) Third International Shorthand Congress.

The first two days, August 7th and 8th, were exclusively devoted to the Proceedings of the German Federation and did not form part of the Congress proper. As these proceedings are of an entirely internal nature and are not of any interest to outsiders, I may here confine myself to the statement that the management of the Federation, in accordance with its Regulations, had to be transferred from Berlin to another city, and that Passau, under the able presidency of the Rev. Jos. Alteneder, whom members of the London Congress will well remember for the modest and competent way in which he represented the interests of the German Federation there, was elected. It was also decided to hold the next meeting of that body in Vienna, in 1895.

On Saturday, August 9th, the members of the Congress were officially received and there was a banquet in their honor. Major Gack (Munich), the energetic President of the Executive Committee, cordially welcomed the representatives of all systems and countries; Lieutenant Westermayer, Gabelsberger's grandson, highly praised the King of Italy on account of the interest he evinced in shorthand matters, and a telegram giving expression to this feeling was despatched to His Majesty. Similar telegrams had been sent on the previous day to the Emperors of Germany and Austria, the King of Saxony, and the Prince Regent of Bavaria, all of which had been immediately and graciously acknowledged.

The Rev. J. Alteneder toasted upon the Congress; Mr. Ungemach had much to say in praise of the Governments of Saxony, Austria-Hungary and Luxemburg for having sent special delegates to this Congress; and Dr. Weber (Luxemburg) called for three cheers in honor of Gabelsberger on behalf of all French shorthand writers.

There were more speeches, songs and entertainments, which brought the evening to a close.

THE UNVEILING OF THE GABELSBERGER STATUE.

The unveiling of the statue erected to commemorate the centenary of Gabelsberger's birth had been fixed for Sunday, August 10th, and formed the centre of the Munich festivities. Practically all systems and countries were represented, except Pitman's Phonography. Mr. Pitman, who was in Munich at the time of the Congress, neither attended personally, nor caused himself to be represented or excused.

At nine o'clock in the morning a long row of carriages-and-pair slowly moved towards the Southern Cemetery in order first to pay a visit to the tombs of Gabelsberger and Gerber, one of the former's first and most ardent followers. The company being grouped round the master's tomb, the Rev. Gratzmüller, Prior of the Augsburg Convent, delivered a solemn address, giving prominence to Gabelsberger's personal qualities as a man and a teacher. After a few more speeches wreaths were deposited upon the grave. Proceeding to Gerber's resting place the Rev. Gratzmüller again delivered an address, and the party returned to town, wending their way through the Gabelsberger Street. There the artistically executed medallion was inspected which the Munich Town Council have had placed at the first storey of the house in which the famous inventor lived, and which was tastefully decorated. A short distance from there, at the corner of the Barer and Otto Street, the statue had been erected. The place was profusely adorned with flags and banners, and two large stands were occupied by the ladies and the official representatives of the local and other Authorities.

The Chief Magistrate, accompanied by the two Mayors of the Town, Drs. John Wiedenmayer and Borscht, opened the ceremony, the band played, and then Geheimer Regierungsrath (Privy Councillor) Robert Fischer, ex-Mayor of Gera, delivered the following address:—

"Another statue is to be added to-day to the number of those which have been erected already to the fame of great men in this capital, in which Art and Science have always flourished as hardly in any other city of the Empire: a glorious testimony for the place to whom we owe the existence of the Master of German Shorthand, the place where he lived, worked and died. Great homage was paid to him already by the local authorities having named a public street after him, by their giving permission for the erection of this statue in a public place, and by the Royal Bavarian Government having graciously contributed a large amount towards the cost of the latter. But also the large number of those who have come hither in order to be present at the unveiling, is a proof of the importance which attaches to the name of Gabelsberger. For there are not only followers of his own system who have wended their steps with enthusiasm to these festivities from all parts of the German Empire and foreign countries, but also followers of other systems, German and Foreign, who have assembled here in order to pay homage to the originator of modern Shorthand.* And indeed whoever once made himself acquainted with what Gabelsberger created will unhesitatingly confess to the everlasting merit that crowns his work. It was he who directed the art of Shorthand into new channels and the adaptations of his system to a vast number of foreign languages shows us that he was on the right way, and that his invention bears an international character. In the whole history of writing Gabelsberger will always occupy the foremost place and his fame will be inextinguishable."

*At a recent meeting of the Shorthand Society in London, it was stated by competent authorities that the term "Modern Shorthand" is used in Germany in order to express all systems from Gabelsberger downwards, whilst in England the same term applies to systems from Timothy Bright downwards.—THE AUTHOR.



The Gabelsberger Statue.

Dr. Fischer continued, calling attention to the important bearing which Gabelsberger's invention had had upon the development of Parliamentary life, and the *rôle* Shorthand plays in business and private life. He then commented upon the unfavourable circumstances and grave difficulties which had beset Gabelsberger's path, but which did not deter him from assiduously laboring at the perfection of his work to the very moment of his untimely death. He concluded by expressing his heartfelt thanks to all those who had so loyally assisted in completing the great task and to those who had come hither for the purpose of doing honor to the memory of the great dead.

The Statue was then unveiled amid deafening cheers, a well trained choir sang, accompanied by the Band, and a number of young ladies clad in white garments bestrewed the pedestal with flowers.

The Statue, of which these pages show a faithful reproduction, stands on a pedestal 9 feet high, bearing the words Franz Xaver Gabelsberger. The master is in a sitting posture; his left arm, leaning upon the chair, holds the slate which rests upon his left leg: his outstretched right hand holds the pencil; lost in meditation he turns his genial and kindly face full towards his admirers. The likeness is complete, and all those who knew the great inventor in his lifetime are full of praise and appreciation of the work of art which the sculptor, Professor Syrius Eberle, has created.

The President of the Statue Committee, Dr. Fruth, thereupon formally presented the Statue to the City of Munich, entrusting it to their sacred care.

The first Mayor of the town, Dr. John Widenmayer, gratefully acknowledged the trust, for the worthy care of which the authorities held themselves responsible to the donors and to the whole civilized world. Mr. Noske on behalf of the Austrian Government and Privy-Counsellor Haepe on behalf of the Saxon Government delivered addresses, and Lieutenant Westermeyer expressed his thanks on behalf of the Gabelsberger family. This terminated the proceedings.

In the afternoon a banquet took place in the Town Hall, in honor of the members of the Congress, to which the Mayor had issued special invitations. A seat of honor had also been reserved for Mr. Isaac Pitman, but he was not present.

In the evening special festivities took place in commemoration of Gabelsberger, and on this occasion the telegrams and other communications were read which had arrived from all countries in honor of the occasion.

THE CONGRESS.

On Monday morning, August 11th, the actual proceedings of the Congress commenced. There were 323 members present, and the members of the Congress, including those who did not personally attend, number about 500.

The Shorthand Society, London, was represented at the Congress by the following members :—

Hofrath Dr. Zeibig (Dresden) Hon. German Secretary.
Domvicar J. Alteneder (Passau).
Mr. Max Bäckler (Berlin).
Dr. Dreinhoefer (Berlin).
Herm. Heilberg (Breslau).
Prof. Krieg (Dresden).
Mr. Franz Ludewig (London), Official Representative, Member of Council.
Dr. Weber (Luxemburg).

The English members (residing in Great Britain) of the Congress are the following :—

1. Mr. W. H. Gurney-Salter, London.
2. Mr. Gurney-Angus, London.
3. }
4. } The Institute of Shorthand-writers Practising in the
5. } Supreme Court of Judicature, London.
6. }
7. Mr. Franz Ludewig, London.
8. Mr. Isaac Pitman, Bath.
9. Mrs Pitman, Bath.
10. Miss Butler, Bath.
11. Mr. Ed. Pocknell, London
12. Mr. Thomas A. Reed, London.
13. Mr. Henry Richter, London.
14. }
15. } The Shorthand Society, London.
16. }
17. Mr. J. M. Sloan, London.
18. Mr. John M. Warden, Edinburgh.
19. Dr. Woollcombe, Dublin.

Of these, unfortunately, the vast majority was prevented from attending, owing to professional work, which was at its height just at the time of the Congress. Parliament was sitting, and the Law Courts were in full operation. It is a great pity that the German Committee did not see their way to defer the Congress by, say, three weeks, as, in that case, there is no doubt that at least two or three dozen representatives from this country would have been present. As it was, only Mr. Franz Ludewig, representing the Shorthand Society, and Mr. Isaac Pitman were able to attend.

The following countries were represented, besides England and Germany :—

Austria-Hungary.
Bulgaria.
Denmark.
Finland.
France.
Greece.
Italy.
Luxemburg.
Norway.
Switzerland.
United States, America.

The Governments of Austria-Hungary, Bavaria, Saxony, and Luxemburg, and the Town Councils of Munich and Vienna had done the Congress the honor of appointing special Delegates.

The Congress having been opened by the President of the Executive Committee, Major Gack, Ministerial-Rath Dr. von Giehrl, and the Mayor, Dr. von Wiedenmayer welcomed its members and visitors in cordial terms.

The following gentlemen were then elected as officers or the Congress :—

President : Major Gack.
Vice-Presidents : Counsellor Haepe (Dresden).
Director Dessau (Copenhagen).
Dr. Weber (Luxemburg).
Mr. Markovits (Budapest).
Mr. Noë (Graz).
Hon. Secretaries : Dr. Gantter (Frankfurt).
Dr. Albrecht (Freiburg).
Dr. Lautenhammer (Munich).
Mr. Rindermann (Berlin).
Mr. Dietze (Berlin).
Mr. Fabritius (Helsingfors).
Mr. Prazak (Prague).
Prof. Bezensek (Philippopol).
Mr. Gliedt (New York).
Mr. Mindler (Athens).

Mr. Ivan Markovits read the first paper on "The History of Shorthand in Hungary," showing that also in that country the development of the art is closely connected with the development of the constitutional government. From 1820 to 1830 the Parliamentary proceedings were not allowed to be published. The first shorthand writer was Carl Hainik (1832-1860) who wrote Danzer's adaptation of the Taylor system. At the university the system of Nowack was taught, but otherwise nobody cared for it. From 1860, together with the attainment of political freedom, shorthand revived, and to-day

Gabelsberger's system, as adapted to the Hungarian language by the speaker, predominated. In the Reichstag half the number of the shorthand writers used his system, and the other half write an adaptation of the Stolze system by Fennyvessy.

The second paper was entitled

“THE OBJECT OF AN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS,”

and was read by its author, the Rev. Joseph Alteneder, vicar of the Passau Cathedral. Rev. Alteneder is a decided follower of the Pax Stenographica movement, but unfortunately is apt to forget, when absorbed by his subject, that there are yet enemies lurking about, who must be fought and conquered before the fruits of peace can be enjoyed. For this reason his well-meant endeavors were not attended by any practical result. In his paper Mr. Alteneder first dealt with the importance of the International Congress generally, by laying stress upon the fact that by its means shorthand writers were enabled to converse personally with each other with regard to their common interests and grievances, and to agree upon concerted action. The information derived from such gatherings about the state of shorthand in foreign countries was also most valuable, and acted as an incentive to fresh activity. In order, then, to keep this important institution of the International Congress alive, he did not consider a personal gathering sufficient which might take place every few years—probably less frequently in future than they had done up to now, through a certain concatenation of circumstances—but what was required was some link connecting all the members of the Congress present and future and those likely to become members and people generally interested in the movement, and that link he considered would best be established by means of a journal specially founded for the purpose of watching and furthering the objects of the Congress. In it he wished to publish the official announcements of the Nexus Committee and those of the local Committees in charge of the coming Congress for the time being.

In this connection I think it is noteworthy that also on this occasion no definite arrangement was come to as regards the rights and duties of the so-called Nexus Committee, which were misunderstood by the whole world from the beginning, when the London Congress first instituted that body. The London Congress never intended the Nexus Committee to do any work in any shape or form; indeed, the members of the said Committee would have been differently selected if that had been intended. The object of its installation was, in the words of the mover, Mr. W. H. Gurney-Salter, “to keep the Congress alive.” The appointments were purely honorary and care was taken that each country was included by its most prominent representatives. An impression, however, has got abroad as if that Nexus Committee had not only the right, but also the duty to make the necessary preliminary

arrangements for each Congress, which is erroneous. Of course it is within the rights of each Congress to throw a task of that description, or, in fact, any other task, upon the Nexus Committee, as long as they get the necessary members to undertake it, but any such task should be clearly defined and understood, and a blunder committed by London in the hurry of the very last Congress sitting without due consideration, or discussion, should not be perpetuated. This is one of the points to which the next Congress should give its attention.

Returning to Mr. Alteneder's paper, the speaker held that, although there are many important and competent Journals in Germany—other countries do not appear to have come in at all for the speaker's consideration in this respect—they were not necessarily read by just those people who took an interest in the Congress movement. He referred to a Journal called the *Warte*, published by the Royal Institute in Dresden, from 1862 to 1865, in the English, French, and German languages, as a forerunner of what should now be attempted, adding that the circumstances of the present day were much more favorable to the existence of such a publication, which he considered should appear quarterly for the present. The difficulties would be lessened, if the Congress were extended into an Institution called perhaps the International Shorthand Federation, recognising as official languages the three just mentioned.

It is due to the objection taken to this proposal by Mr. Bäckler (Stolze) that nothing came of it. Experience had shown, he argued, that all important shorthand Journals published already the announcements of the Congress committees which were thus communicated to the shorthand world at large; and as regarded information from foreign countries, those readers who did not think the news sufficient which their own Journals contained, had better subscribe to the foreign Journals. He must object to thus uselessly increasing the number of the already existing shorthand newspapers. The interest which the author of the paper felt in favor of everything connected with shorthand did not exist in the same degree with others; only three members, Alteneder, Weber, and himself, had attended the three Congresses, and he did not consider a special Journal necessary to establish a link between them.

Counsellor Haepe, the deputy of the Royal Saxon Government, stated that he was of opinion that the Royal Institute would publish a Journal of the desired description provided that the Congress passed a resolution to that effect.

This announcement brought Mr. Bäckler to the front again, who emphatically objected to such a Journal being handed over to a Gabelsberger Institution which was equivalent to the surrender of the Congress to the Gabelsberger system.

Now, I am personally convinced that neither my old friend Mr. Alteneder nor Counsellor Haepe ever thought of such a thing, but the question of systems having once being broached, these gentlemen preferred immediately to withdraw their proposal instead of continuing a discussion which might lead to further unpleasant remarks. Dr. Eugen Gantter, Frankfurt, thereupon moved that this Congress consider the publication of an organ of its own desirable, which was adopted.

In the afternoon Professor J. O. Prazak (Prague) read a very able paper on the work of Gabelsberger's system in its adaptation to slavonic languages, including the Polish, Servian Croatian, and Bulgarian languages. The speaker showed by the practical result attained that Gabelsberger's system had proved the most useful for these languages and referred for further particulars as to teaching, practice, and statistics to Professor Auton Bezensek's book, entitled "Beiträge zur Geschichte der Stenographie bei den Südslaven."

Major Caspar Suter explained in an excellent paper

THE ADVANTAGES OF SHORTHAND TO THE MILITARY PROFESSION.

He dwelt on the fact that the theoretical work demanded of officers in working out statistical plans, answering scientific questions, &c., was on the increase, and that a large amount of time was saved, if these complicated statements were drafted by means of Shorthand. The officer is also often required to refer to service regulations, and in such cases the boon will be great if he has entered the most important of them in Shorthand in his pocket-book. By means of Shorthand, officers are in a position to put on paper each command or remark of their superior officer, which avoids misunderstandings, indistinctness, and unpleasantness. In reconnoitring, Shorthand is a valuable aid. From local reasons as well as on account of the danger of being discovered by the enemy, officers will not have much time on hand to reduce to writing their observations and impressions, whilst the multitude of points to be observed may become confusing. Here Shorthand is the only means to overcome the difficulty. Many other small points were touched upon by the speaker which will be of value and interest to every member of the military profession. In conclusion, the speaker mentioned that the Gabelsberger Shorthand had been introduced into the military schools in Austria-Hungary.

Dr. Eugen Gantter, who was also present at the London Congress, then read a paper on

SHORTHAND AND THE PRESS.

The paper recapitulated all the various uses and advantages which the Press is able to derive from the Art, and will be of great value to young journalists, showing them, as it does, every conceivable way in which Shorthand may with advantage be utilised. One point, however, ought to be mentioned as erroneous. Dr. Gantter wishes to see compositors take up Shorthand more generally, "so that the copy may be given to them written in Gabelsberger, Duployé, or Pitman's Shorthand." Dr. Gantter does not write the Pitman Shorthand, and is therefore not qualified to judge. Those who do write it will be unanimous in their opinion, that while, under particularly favourable circumstances, such a feat *may* be possible as an exception, it will be absolutely impossible *as a rule*.

Of course it is a pity that Dr. Gantter should have mentioned any particular system in this connection, but having once done so and committed himself to a statement to which others cannot agree, I have no alternative but to follow him on the same ground, reluctantly though I do so.

The paper is a fine specimen of high-class German rhetoric, and those who wish to read an interesting paper in that language, clad in elegant form, should endeavour to obtain a copy.

The meeting closed at six o'clock.

On Tuesday morning, the well known Historian and Parliamentary Shorthand writer, Vice-President of the Royal Institute in Dresden, Hofrath Professor Dr. Julius Woldemar Zeibig, who also acts as the Honorary German Secretary for the Shorthand Society in London, read a paper on

A MODEL PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE.

I am sorry to say that this excellent and well thought-out paper somewhat suffers from being too freely interspersed with quotations, without the aid of a translation, from such foreign languages as are not generally understood by the average man, such as Spanish, Italian, etc. But having worked one's self through these, we arrive at the following propositions.

(1) The office should be a State institution, and the Parliamentary service should therefore not be contracted for in a lump sum.

(2) The salary to be such as to enable the Parliamentary Shorthand writers to live in accordance with their education and social position, without having to supplement it by private enterprise; and a rise of salary to be granted after a certain number of years.

(3) That the institution of revisers does not appear to be necessary in accordance with the experience gathered in Germany.

(4) That the task of the Shorthand writer be considered the verbatim (*i.e.*, inedited) reproduction of the speech.

(5) That the transcription be made on the type-writer, instead of by longhand.

(6) That applicants be technically examined, not by dictation, however, but by an improvised speech.

In the course of the discussion the Professor abandoned clauses 3 and 4 (*i.e.*, no revisers, and strictly verbatim report), the former after a heavy onslaught on the part of Mr. Markovits, Chief of the Hungarian Parliamentary Office. He maintained that the Hungarian Office, as established 25 years ago by Konyi and Jempessy, in which 12 reporters and 4 revisers worked together, had proved a veritable model institution. But then he admitted that only one reporter took notes at a time (for five minutes), whilst under Professor Zeibig's proposal the German Parliamentary Rule of two reporters working simultaneously was presupposed. The advantage of a revisor, in Mr. Markovits' opinion, was that that functionary followed the thread of the speeches and discussions for half-an-hour.

At all events the discussion on Professor Zeibig's proposal appeared to indicate that the Parliamentary reporters of different countries did not command sufficient acquaintance with the practical working of the usages in other countries to arrive at a unanimous opinion as to what was really the best arrangement, and it was therefore a thoughtful act on the Professor's part to drop the question for the present, so as to allow experiences to mature.

Clause 2 was modified to the effect that Parliamentary reporters should be entitled to a pension, and as to clause 6 it was agreed that, as a test, applicants should be engaged upon trial.

Mr. Franz Meyerhofer, the President of the Munich Mercantile Society, then read a paper on

SHORTHAND IN THE OFFICE,

consisting of a very able and convincing summary of the reasons why Shorthand should be generally used in offices.

This brought the meeting to a close at 1 p.m.

On the re-opening at 3 o'clock Mr. Carl Weizmann, the energetic President of the Vienna Shorthand Society, read a paper advocating the

TEACHING OF SHORTHAND AT COLLEGES.

The principal object was, the speaker explained, to scientifically train educated teachers of Shorthand and Parliamentary and other high-class professional Shorthand writers.

Mr. Beyerlen then read a paper in favor of the use of the Typewriter, in which the only remarkable thing was the now, I should have hoped, exploded idea that the Typewriter had the advantage of the Shorthand writer in ordinary offices, inasmuch as the dictated letters need not be transcribed, and could be sent off immediately after dictation. Well, for the lay public or an audience of schoolboys such nonsense might have been good enough, but in an International Congress, speaking before the most experienced men of the profession, it was utterly out of place. On the other hand Miss E. Reynolds, of Manchester, had written a singularly graceful paper on the past and present of the Typewriter, in which, led by practical experience, she naturally is in favor of Shorthand and Typewriting going hand in hand, the former for taking down, and the latter for transcribing the revised dictation. Miss Reynolds described the development of this useful instrument from its infancy to its present popularity—especially in America—giving facts and figures in illustration of her statements, and came to the conclusion that there is no class of people who would not be forced in the near future to recognise the advantages of Typewriting. Unfortunately Miss Reynolds' paper could not be read at the Congress owing to her absence, but it was duly distributed.

Dr. Karl Albrecht, one of Germany's champions, has summarised his vast experience as conductor of Shorthand classes in a paper entitled:

AIM AND OBJECT OF INSTRUCTION IN SHORTHAND.

This he properly defined to be the training of competent Shorthand writers, and in order to attain this end he objected to so called fast classes professing to teach Shorthand in a few hours or weeks. He correctly points out that it is not the theoretical knowledge of a system, but the practical and intelligent application of it, that makes the competent man, and that qualification cannot be acquired in so short a space of time. Many other recommendations were embodied in his paper calculated to make the instruction in Shorthand successful.

In the course of this meeting Mr. Isaac Pitman put in an appearance. He was, immediately upon entering, cordially welcomed by Dr. Gantter, and, in response to an invitation, delivered an address. In that address his hearers were somewhat disappointed. They had expected to hear something about the state of shorthand generally in England, or at least something of general interest, but had instead to listen to an account of how many copies of his various publications Mr. Pitman sold in his business. He also came to the conclusion that the English language, as modified by his method of phonetic spelling, would become the universal language. He was led to form this idea from the fact that wherever he travelled in Germany he could speak English and everybody understood him. But the latter fact simply shows the education given to Germans in school, and a Frenchman travelling in Germany will come across the same knowledge of French without being justified to conclude from that, that French was destined to become the universal language.

That was the only time that Mr. Pitman attended a meeting of the Congress, which was generally regretted.

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

The following day, Wednesday, August 13th, was the last day of the Congress.

There was only one paper, viz., on "Writing Material for Shorthand Instruction and Practice" by the well-known Parliamentary shorthand writer, Ad. Zukertort (Berlin), brother of the late Chess Champion.

I think it well to introduce Mr. Zukertort's paper by a few preliminary remarks for the benefit of English readers.

German practitioners until a few years ago used the pencil exclusively for all practical work. In fact, it was only through the International movement that they, as well as writers of other countries, commenced to take an interest in the ways and methods in which their foreign brethren exercised their craft. It is no exaggeration to say that when the Germans were first told that English professional men used pen and ink they piteously smiled at the idea; indeed, there are leading men in Germany up to the present day, who have not been able as yet to get rid of that feeling. Of course, the more general introduction of a serviceable fountain pen went a long way to reconcile them to pen and ink, and they have since honestly endeavored to arrive at the truth as to which method of taking notes was really preferable. I should also

explain that the question of pen or pencil is to a very large extent a question of what Shorthand system is being used, and I am personally convinced that it is the boldness of the Gabelsberger characters capable of distortion without impairing their legibility, the practical absence of distinction by shading or sizing, the total absence of minute distinctions by smaller or larger hooks or loops, which have on the one hand suggested the general adoption of the pencil in Germany; and the exceedingly minute distinctions of the Pitman description which have rendered the use of pen and ink highly desirable, on the other hand, in England. For the same reason it is easy to understand that the Germans, without being acquainted with the Pitman system and its intricacies, invariably confine themselves, in discussing the merits or demerits of pen or pencil, to practical drawbacks regardless of systems, such as the pen sticking in the paper, carrying bits of paper away and smudging, the ink coming not freely enough or too freely, there being more friction, etc., whilst the same question discussed by Englishmen chiefly centres on the fact that notes taken by pencil cannot show all the niceties and distinctions as clearly as a pen, and are, therefore, not as legible, a proposition which the Gabelsbergers, of course judging by their own system, to a man deny.

Mr. Zukertort, in dealing almost exclusively in his paper with these topics, enumerated the practical results of his own experience (*i.e.*, in the Gabelsberger system), and comes to the conclusion that the only advantage of a fountain pen over a pencil comes in when a transcription by lamplight is required. But even that advantage has not been sufficiently large for him to counterbalance the advantages possessed by the pencil, namely, less fatiguing for long spells of work because of less friction, less trouble in exchanging for a fresh one as compared to the pen sticking, smudging, blurring or refusing, and, finally, greater economy both as to original cost and replacing, when damaged.

In the discussion which followed, it was remarkable that the writers of the Stolzean systems, which are to a considerable extent dependent upon shading for the expression of both vowels and consonants, were more favorably inclined towards the pen, whether ordinary or fountain pen.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

The question of the meeting of the next Congress was then brought up for discussion. It was moved on behalf of the Joint Stolzean Shorthand Societies of Berlin, that "In view of the Jubilee of the Stolzean systems, the next Congress do take place in Berlin in 1891," and this was agreed to without debate.

A preliminary Committee (Nexus Committee?) was formed, consisting of the following gentlemen:—

Dr. Dreinhöfer,	Berlin,	representing the New Stolzean School.
Director Ruehl,	Hamburg,	„ Old „
Dr. Berthold,	Berlin,	„ Arends System.
H. Roller,	Berlin,	„ His own System.
Dr. Eggers,	Berlin,	„ Gabelsberger System.
Professor Zeibig,	Dresden,	„ Royal Stenographic Institute.
M. Bäckler,	Berlin,	„ His own Society.

It was also resolved that Papers should be distributed amongst the members of the Congress a fortnight in advance.

This concluded the official business of the Congress.

Professor Prazak expressed the thanks of all foreign societies to the City of Munich and to the originators of the Fest.

Mr. Bäckler gave three cheers to the President of Committee, Major Gack, and Mr. Zukertort thanked the Committee for its self-denying labors.

At a quarter past eleven in the morning the Third International Congress was ended.

A number of highly interesting papers had been sent by authors who were unfortunately prevented from attending, and which were in the authors' absence not read, but merely distributed amongst those present. Mr. Ed. Pocknell's paper was also printed for distribution in the Exhibition room on account of the special interest and importance which it involved. I may also here be permitted to state that the Congress Committee greatly deplored Mr. Pocknell's unavoidable absence, as they had looked forward with considerable interest to the personal acquaintance of the man who has successfully inaugurated the scientific investigation and discussion of Shorthand principles in England, as embodied in the Shorthand Society (see cover). The latter has now, on account of its eminently useful activity, its members and adherents in all parts of the world.

Mr. Pocknell's paper was entitled

NOTES ON MY LOAN COLLECTION OF ENGLISH SHORTHAND WORKS.

As the reader will gather already from this heading, the indefatigable Mr. Pocknell had sent over to Munich a great portion of his famous collection which had excited the universal admiration of the visitors to the Shorthand Exhibition at the London Congress in 1887. Mr. Pocknell correctly assumed that Continental Shorthand writers would be thankful to him for an accompanying explanation of the principal works, their contents and importance, and accordingly he set to work in his usual masterly manner. I can only regret that my limited space will not permit me to reproduce his paper in extenso, but I will endeavor to quote the most interesting passages. Naturally the collection commenced with a reprint of Dr. Timothy Bright's "Characterie." A MS. copy of Peter Bales' Brachygraphy showed that this system was no Shorthand at all, and that the historian made a mistake in saying so. Two manuscript copies of two editions of John Willis's Art of Stenography (1602) were sent in order to show that the basis of English Stenography was purely Phonetic. "Willis," says Mr. Pocknell, "must now be recognised by historians as the first English Stenographic Phonographer, and the credit so long given to others must now be transferred to him. This was acknowledged by Mr. Isaac Pitman at the London Congress, where he made the following statement in the brief discussion that followed the reading of my paper:—'I must

exonerate myself, at least, from any such misconception as the idea that Phonography began in 1837. At the time I published my first book I was ignorant of the vast literature that existed upon the subject of phonographic writing and reformed spelling. As the system grew I became acquainted with this literature, and I was glad to find it. I have never supposed or intimated to the public that phonographic writing originated with me. I disclaim the idea entirely, and place the honor where it is due, on the heads of those great men who preceded me.' (Transactions of London Congress, page 138.)

"I quote this passage at length in order that it may not be lost sight of, and because, notwithstanding its utterance, Mr. Pitman is still generally called the 'Inventor of Phonography,' and not only accepts the title, but prints it on the news bills of his *Phonetic Journal*; and because, also, I find, in the Transactions of the London Congress, that the day after the above disclaimer was made by Mr. Pitman, that gentleman, in a paper he read, alluding to the dispatch of his first book, 'Stenographic Sound-hand,' is reported to have said, 'Thus noiselessly, as the day dawns, was the *principle of Phonetic writing* ushered into the world;' a statement repeated, a few weeks afterwards, by Mr. Pitman, at Bath, and resuscitated not long since, in the London 'Office,' on the authority of Mr. Pitman's nephew, Mr. Guilbert Pitman, of Amen Corner, London. The materials now at the disposal of the historian will enable him to correct erroneous statements touching the origin of Phonographic Shorthand, and I shall be much surprised if any future historian can point to any alphabetic shorthand in any part of the world, at any time, which has not been based on phonetic principles, since all alphabets have been phonetic in their design and in theory, however imperfectly phonetic they may have ultimately become. As Dr. J. H. Gladstone correctly said at the London Congress, "Wherever there has been an alphabet that implies Phonetic writing." (Page 179, Transactions of London, Congress.)"

The manuscript of an anonymous work "Characterism" (1630) was sent to show the origin of the phonetic pairing of Shorthand signs. Coming to Rich, about whom "the past historians have been most egregiously misled," Mr. Pocknell continues. "I take to myself some credit for exposing the conduct of this much-belauded man—I cannot say author—for it turns out that he merely reprinted, with slight variations, the system of William Cartwright, his uncle. . . . The latter is known by the copy (believed to be unique) in the British Museum, which I discovered there by accident about 10 years ago. For want of a perusal of this work our historians, one compiling from the other, have attributed to Rich the merits due to Cartwright."

The eighth edition of Gurney's Brachygraphy was sent to enable the members of the Congress to convince themselves of another historical fallacy which, Mr. Pocknell thinks, originated in Pitman's "History," or some other work emanating from his Press, namely, that Gurney never acknowledged his indebtedness to Mason's method as the basis of his system. In all the editions that are known down to the eighth, that acknowledgment is most honorably made in the preface. But

in subsequent editions his descendants had omitted the preface, possibly through a technical difficulty, the preface being printed from copper plates. Another popular error, Mr. Pocknell says, arising out of the "History of Shorthand," by Mr. Isaac Pitman, is that the first Phonetic System of Shorthand was issued by William Tiffin (1750). He includes the book in his collection thinking it would be of interest only on account of this error respecting it.

Thomas Hervey's book was also sent. It anticipates some of the devices used 50 years afterwards by Mr. Pitman. Most of the other shorthand works down to the present day were exhibited, amongst them Stringer, Lyle, Byron, Holdsworth and Aldridge, Angell, Blanchard, Hodson, Clive, Purton, Gawtress, John Harland's M.S., Moat, and many others, but none call for special comment for English readers.

Mr. Isaac Pitman's "Stenographic Sound-hand" (1837), and the first volume of his Phonographic Journal were also sent about which Mr. Pocknell makes the following remarks:—"Both are scarce works. Mr. Pitman's enthusiastic praise of his little work has not been lessened in his regard for his later modifications. The book is an example of the danger of prophesying unless you know." In conclusion, the author mentions some claims that have lately been set up to the invention of phonographic shorthand prior to the Pitman era, namely, on behalf of the Rev. Phineas Bailey in America, and of Mr. Towndrow, who (being believed to be an Englishman), published his first system in England (1831) and his last in the United States (1887). "As I have shown," he concludes his remarks, "all such claims subsequent to the time of John Willis are erroneous."

As it happened, Mr. Pitman only once, for the brief space of half an hour, favored the Congress by his presence, otherwise means might have been found to read Mr. Pocknell's paper in his presence. The world would then have seen what answer Mr. Pitman was able to give to Mr. Pocknell's very definite statements concerning him. But in order to enable Mr. Pitman to reply even now, I have thought it my duty to fully reproduce Mr. Pocknell's remarks in English seeing that Mr. Pitman stated at the Munich Congress that he understood no language but his own, and the German translation might thus possibly escape him.

Another paper of great interest was sent by Mr. W. H. Gurney-Salter, the official shorthand writer to both Houses of Parliament, on

THE TRANSCRIPTION OF STENOGRAMS BY TRAINED READERS.

Mr. Salter was prompted to write his paper through some statements made in public at the Congress and elsewhere that many stenographers both in Europe and America considered such transcription impossible, citing several instances to that effect. Mr. Salter then proceeded to describe the process as daily carried out in his office by means of the Gurney system:

"While a stenographer is taking notes of a speech or evidence, he sends his stenograms every half-hour to clerks in another house to be

transcribed. These stenograph readers either transcribe them into longhand themselves, or, more often, dictate them to clerks who write longhand. Usually the stenograph reader has a longhand writer on each side of him, A and B:—he reads from the stenograms written by his colleague a sentence of 12 or 15 words to A; while these words are being written in longhand by A, he reads another part of the stenograms to B and then gives A his second sentence and so on alternately. In this manner about 2,800 words are transcribed per hour. Each stenographer (*writer*) continues to write for a considerable time—from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 or 5 hours according to circumstances—and on his return to the office he finds a mass of MSS. (perhaps 10,000 words in length) ready to be compared by him with his stenograms. He has no need to write or dictate a single line himself; that work is all done for him by his stenograph readers—he has merely to revise the manuscript and supply it to the printers, so that it may be in print by 8 o'clock the next morning." . . . "Every kind of work is thus reproduced dealing with almost every subject that can interest a human being. It is not resorted to occasionally as an exception; on the contrary, it is our regular and principal means of transcribing our stenograms, and has been used in this office for more than 70 years." . . . "It is true that in stenograms written at a high speed the characters are more or less deformed, and that must necessarily increase the difficulty of reading them, but it is a difficulty which practice invariably overcomes. The experience of this office proves that there is very little difference, if any, between an expert stenograph reader and the stenographer himself in the deciphering of roughly written stenograms. The transactions of the London Congress contain statements by various speakers to that effect." In conclusion, Mr. Salter states that this method of transcribing has also occasionally been resorted to by other systems, but that in his office it had been applied to the Gurney system chiefly.

Another paper dealing to a certain extent with the same subject, but applied to Samuel Taylor's system, had been sent by Mr. Matthias Levy (London), the well-known Honorary Secretary of the Institute of Shorthand Writers.

Mr. Levy begins by giving a short description of Taylor's system and its principles, and mentions a number of occasions on which the great legibility of that system has been proved by trained readers having transcribed the notes of a speech whilst it was being delivered and taken down. Mr. Levy has just issued a new edition of his well-known manual of Taylor's System, and he kindly sent a copy of his work to the Munich Exhibition, where it was much appreciated.

Professor J. D. Everett, Belfast, contributed a paper entitled
**SOME CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING METHODS
 OF STENOGRAPHIC EXPRESSION.**

The learned Professor introduced his subject by the following words:

"In my wish to take part in the proceedings of this International gathering of Stenographers to do honor to the memory of the great

Gabelsberger, who, more than any other man, has left the stamp of his mind on the Shorthand systems of Europe, it appears to me that the most useful contribution I can make will be an exposition of certain facts and principles in regard to stenographic expression, which have been powerfully impressed upon me by my experience as a Shorthand inventor and amateur practitioner.

In England during the last ten years there has been much discussion respecting the first principles of stenography. After a hundred years of the almost undisturbed predominance of a class of geometrical systems in which consonants receive careful attention, and vowels are treated as superfluous, several voices have been heard asserting that some better principle of construction must be found. One party maintains with Gabelsberger that geometrical characters ought to be discarded, and that the writing ought to be all on one slope. Another party insists on the necessity of giving definite indication of the presence or absence of a vowel before and after every consonant, though deeming it unimportant to indicate what the vowel is. A third party maintains that it is necessary to provide ready means for definite vowel expression; and, in face of the assertion frequently made that such expression is incompatible with speed, maintains that means have been found of overcoming this difficulty.

My present purpose is not directly to discuss the relative advantages of these different methods, but rather to put some considerations bearing upon them, which have been strongly impressed on my own mind by personal experience."

In order to obtain sufficiently wide distinctions, the author says, we must make the most of every means of distinction, which nature has placed within our reach, and those means he considers to be the following; the number of sizes not to exceed 2 or 3, that of thicknesses 2, that of position with respect to the general line 3. He wishes to utilize all, neither more nor less. But the Professor also considers it his special mission to call the attention of shorthand men of his generation, to the distinction of position of successive consonants of a word relative to each other.

Personally I am glad that Professor Everett does take the trouble of again and again pointing out the advantages of relative position, but it ought at the same time to be mentioned, that Gabelsberger has done so, for these 75 years or more, that Stolze and the subsequent German Authors had adopted the same expedient, that the same device is also used in the Spanish Systems (see Transactions of London Congress, page 94), and that a German, named Vogel, sent a paper to the London Congress on "A new writing principle" (see Transactions, page 359), according to which he thought he had only just discovered the identical device. There is no doubt that relative position is an excellent expedient, and I am happy to see England commence to appreciate it.

The next point which Professor Everett wished to bring before the Congress, is the extended use practically *ad infinitum*, of phrasing. "I find he says, generally speaking, no necessity to show where one word ends, and the next begins. No such indication is given in ordinary

speech, and no such indication is justifiable in Shorthand, if the written representation of sounds is sufficiently full."

I cannot help thinking, however, that there will be many practical writers who are not prepared to follow the Professor to the extent suggested for both practical and scientific reasons, quite apart from the fact that this extended phrasing cannot be adopted in all systems; and judging by the Professor's own publications, his own system does not appear to offer any more facilities in that respect than most others. It is perfectly true that, as the Professor says, "Nothing is so apt to be illegibly scrawled as a succession of little words written separately," but between this extreme and the other of writing anything and everything together indiscriminately, there is a vast space in which there seems to me to be room for a happy medium, the very thing that every practical writer is in the habit of applying.

The author then very sensibly calls attention to the importance of saving the eyes. He advocates writing more by feeling than by seeing, limiting the use of the eyes practically only to the keeping of the writing line. That is a proposition which writers of graphic systems like Gabelsberger not only gladly endorse, but are actually following out in practice; but at the same time writers of the usual style of geometric systems are too much dependent on minute distinctions of size and shape of characters, loops, etc., to derive much practical advantage from this suggestion. In conclusion the Professor adds a remark on the fundamental difference between a script and a geometric system. "If a script system," he says, "means a system whose forms can be rapidly traced by the hand, several of the systems commonly classed as geometrical (notably Gurney's) are practically script. They are geometric when written in copy-book style, but script when written at speed. I think the best way to define a script system is to say that it is a system whose theoretical forms are such as are not likely to be much modified in writing at speed."

Now, as I may claim some authority on this very point, I may be forgiven for furnishing a reply at this juncture to the Professor's proposal. The real and genuine script systems are admitted to be the German ones, as based upon Gabelsberger. It was myself who first introduced into this country the term "script," as summarising the character of those systems, and the only question to be decided in this connection is, whether some recent English systems which have appropriated to their use the term script, may really and scientifically be classed under the same category of system. The notion of "one slope systems" I have more than once proved to be erroneous, seeing that a system of coherent writing, longhand or shorthand, would be a matter of impossibility if only one slope were employed. But the very fact of longhand employing a quantity of different slopes indicates that a shorthand system based upon longhand is also entitled to use different slopes, and the Germans being the proper authorities on this point, hold that a system is only entitled to the term script if the nature and spirit of the writing is the same as that prevailing in ordinary longhand. Professor Everett's idea that script is a system whose theoretical forms are not likely to be

modified much in writing at speed is the very reverse of correct, and there is no writer of genuine script who would endorse this view. Just as ordinary writing is vastly modified in writing at speed, so are the script systems that are based upon it, and the advantage is the very impunity with which such distortions may take place. It is precisely this answer which the Germans would have given to Professor Everett's paper, if it had been read. Nor does the Professor's definition appear to hold good by the light of his own remarks with regard to Gurney's system. As above mentioned, he thinks that the Gurney system is practically script, and only geometric in copy book style. That would clearly indicate a high degree of modification, caused by writing at speed, and yet in the above proposed definition the Professor thinks that a script system is one which is not likely to be much modified at speed.

But, however all that may be, it is a great pity this paper could not be brought before the Congress, inasmuch as the discussion upon it would have proved a valuable mine of information for the Shorthand authors and investigators in this country.

Miss E. Reynold's paper on the

PAST AND PRESENT OF TYPEWRITING,
has already been mentioned.

The last of the series of unread papers is Judge Hermann Seelig's paper on

THE USE OF SHORTHAND IN ADMINISTRATION AND THE LAW COURTS.

The Author chiefly confines himself to the experience gathered by himself as a Judge in Germany, and therefore throws only light on the state of that country in this respect. He regrets that his account is practically a negative one, inasmuch as he could only show what could or should, but had not been done. He contrasted this state of affairs with the importance and official recognition which Shorthand had enjoyed for many years past in England and America, and very convincingly proved what an enormous advantage the taking down of the evidence would be, if it were done by shorthand instead of by longhand, not only in point of time, but also in not irritating judge, jury, counsel, plaintiffs, defendants, and prisoners, thus assisting in the prevention of miscarriage of justice. Judge Seelig also would have all Judges write Shorthand, as indeed very many do, and he goes so far as to assert that one can tell at once by the summing up whether a Judge writes Shorthand or not; and the greater or lesser completeness and exactitude of that process must naturally have a vast influence on the verdict.

The paper is one of the most able ones that the Congress could command, and I hope that no effort will be spared to distribute it as widely as possible amongst the members of the legal profession.

THE EXHIBITION.

It had been hoped that the Germans would have profited by the experience of the London Congress in the matter of the Exhibition, for everybody had expressed his regret at the time, that the London Exhibition could not have been open for a week or fortnight previous

to, or after, the official time of the Congress. But no alteration in this respect had taken place in Munich.

Neither was there a Catalogue to guide the uninitiated, or for that matter the initiated, too. Of course the printing of a catalogue of so gigantic an Exhibition as the Munich one, is a heavy item which would probably be out of proportion to the short time that the Exhibition was open, but then such a document would also be of historical value.

The Exhibition was visited by about 1 000 persons. There were two adjoining rooms, being the largest existing in the town, and called the Haller Saal. The rooms were tastefully decorated. One hundred and twenty societies had sent objects for the Exhibition, and the number of private individuals exhibiting was only trifling. Practically all countries and important systems were represented, and the number of exhibits amounted to several thousand, more than half of which was furnished by the Gabelsberger system in both the original German and its adaptations to all civilised languages. The French system of Prévost-Delaunay declared not to possess any objects suitable for the Exhibition, and the Duployé system had sent their objects too late to receive a position adequate to its importance. France did, for these reasons, not come out favorably as compared to other countries and thus the Schwab-Rausser adaptation of the Gabelsberger system to the French language practically had the field to themselves, and was suitably rewarded by a first-class Diploma.

With regard to the diplomas, I may here explain two kinds have been issued by the jury in order to indicate the degree of merit that gave rise to the award. The design in both cases is alike, but whilst the first-class diplomas are artistically executed in three colors and bronze, printed on toned cartoon, the second-class diplomas were simply printed in one color on white paper.

The English Exhibition was especially interesting, and I have received a special letter from the President of the Exhibition Committee. Dr. Ferd. Ruess, in which he expresses his warm appreciation of the efforts made on behalf of this country to be well represented. There was, in the first place, Mr. Pocknell's famous Loan Collection, which I have practically already described on the occasion of his paper (page 23). For this together with his masterly description of the works, Mr. Pocknell was unanimously awarded a first-class diploma. Mr. Pocknell's own publications were, of course, also included in his exhibition.

Then came Messrs. Isaac Pitman and Sons, Bath, who had exhibited the whole of their publications, numbering 84.

I believe that German Shorthand juries are, for obvious reasons, averse to awarding diplomas to business firms, *exhibiting as such*, but in the case of Messrs. Isaac Pitman and Sons, they have made an honorable exception, and awarded them a second-class diploma for their really splendid collection.

Messrs. Pitman and Pocknell had combined in bringing Dr. Westby-Gibson to the front, and deservedly so, by their both sending a copy of the doctor's well-known Bibliography of Shorthand.

Mr. J. M. Sloan had sent a complete collection of his publications, Professor Everett, Belfast, exhibited the system associated with his name

and I did the same as regards Graphic Shorthand, being my adaptation of Gabelsberger's System to the English language. Both the Professor and myself were favored by diplomas, as were also Messrs. Gurney, the Parliamentary Shorthand writers, who had placed a number of their original shorthand notes at the disposal of the Congress. I may say that the latter attracted more than general attention, and excited the deserved admiration of practical men, for the beauty and clearness of the outlines, which indeed fully bore out Mr. Gurney's statement made in his paper with regard to their being transcribed by persons other than the writers.

The Shorthand Society, London, had exhibited, in two volumes, their organ "Shorthand," recording the proceedings of the Society to the present time and a number of leaflets were distributed on its behalf setting forth the objects of the Society. Mr. Mathias Levy had sent a copy of his new adaptation of the Taylor system.

The other countries were also fully represented by instruction books and Shorthand literature, and it was apparent from the same that Gabelsberger's Graphic Shorthand, with the exception of England and France, vastly predominated in all other countries.

A number of cartoons, statistical and other tables, drawings, consisting of shorthand characters, postcards laden with diminutive shorthand characters, &c., had been sent in every variety, and there is no doubt that everything that shorthand ever produced both for study and pleasure had found a place in the Munich Exhibition.

Also various makes of typewriters and stationery for shorthand purposes had found a place there.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS.

A number of special works on shorthand matters have been published in honor of the Stenographenfest and the Centenary of Gabelsberger's birthday. The first in the field was Dr. Richard Raetzsch, 1st class member of the Royal Institute, Dresden, who published three original letters of Gabelsberger's, which he had found amongst the papers of his late father. He also published a work of special interest to German Gabelsberger writers, embodying the "Dresden Resolutions" and their consequences.

The worthy chief of the Royal Institute, Ober-Regierungsrath Prof. Krieg, published a new adaptation of the Gabelsberger system to the Spanish language.

Mr. Jos. Schwab's adaptation of the same system to the Dutch language also appropriately appears at the same time.

The German-American Society published a neat pamphlet entitled "The new era of Phonography" in which the forthcoming victory of "Graphic" over geometric shorthand was proclaimed. This work is in English, and deserves a study.

Alfred Junge published Volume I. of a Bibliography, containing the History of Shorthand in Germany during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Emil Kramtsall, Vienna, wrote a work on "Shorthand in Parliaments." Privy Counsellor Robert Fischer published "Letters of Gabelsberger to Heger, Posener and others."

Dr. Lautenhammer, Munich, brought out the 44th edition of his "Manual of Gabelsberger's Shorthand," and last, though really first, the Congress Committee put upon the table the so-called "Fest Schrift," entitled, "Gabelsberger und seine Kunst." The stately volume contains on 152 pages:—

"A Biography of Gabelsberger," by Ad. Krafft.

"History of the Gabelsberger Statue," by F. M. Rittinger.

"History of the Gabelsberger Society, Leipsic," by E. Zehl

"History of the Gabelsberger System in Saxony," Professor Oppermann.

"The French Adaptations of the Gabelsberger System," by Jos. Schwab.

"Development and State of the Gabelsberger School in England and North America," by Henry Richter.

"The German Gabelsberger Federation," by Ad. Zukertort.

"Gabelsberger's proposed 'Abbreviated Longhand,'" by A. Steinheil.

"Tironian Notes," by Professor Wilh. Schmitz.

"The Gabelsberger Society in Vienna," by Karl Weizmann.

There are the following supplements: Portrait of Gabelsberger. Gabelsberger's Monument erected on his grave. The Gabelsberger Statue. Plate of abbreviated longhand. Photographic reproduction of Tironian notes.

The indefatigable Secretary of the Congress, Mr. F. M. Rittinger, to whose sagacity, foresight, energy, and general competency the brilliant success of the Stenographenfest is due to a very large extent, had also compiled a special "Guide through Munich" adapted to the occasion, the accompanying map showing in red the various places where the festivities took place. The book is most complete, and a very suitable guide for those who may wish to visit Munich even on non-stenographic occasions.

The President of the Committee, Mr. Rabenhofer, to whom also much of the successful arrangement is due, unfortunately grew seriously ill, and was even unable to take part in the festivities and proceedings. His place was very ably filled by Major Gack. Dr. Ferd. Ruess acted as the President of the Exhibition Committee, and those who have seen the complete and tasteful arrangement of the numerous exhibits, and consider the trouble and veritable labor of love it must have cost to bring all these things together under one roof, can well imagine the assiduity with which the learned doctor has set to work.

There was also a special performance at the Royal Court and National Theatre, for which the committee had selected Wagner's opera "Die Feen," which may not be performed outside Munich. There were also excursions into the mountains, to the Royal Castles, and the Oberammergau Passion Play, but the prevailing wet weather greatly interfered with this part of the programme.

Thus another important link in the chain of Shorthand's International History has been added, and it is to be hoped that the interchange of ideas between different countries on the occasion of these congresses will contribute to the furthering of the true interests and the development of our Art.

In conclusion, I have to express my sincerest gratitude to all those who have so kindly and amiably assisted me in the production of these pages.

W. A. 335A

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