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Typewriter Speed.

With a view to ascertaining the highest speed attainable on typewriters, the following long paragraph was selected, and proposals made to the various manufacturers for a trial of speed:

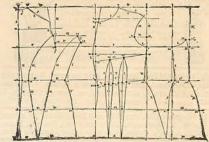
"The matter of speed in a typewriting machine is a subject of the most interesting character, and one where much exaggeration among interested parties can be indulged in, to the delusion of the purchaser. Speed obtained by one individual writing the same word of two letters over and over, or repeating some familiar sentence containing short words, is one thing; and speed obtained by the ordinary operator in practical use is another, and the difference is very marked. The typewriting machine meets a want felt by all engaged in writing from telegraphy, voice, or notes; for it has not only speed, but legibility, not only ease, but accuracy. To find the amount of work an operator can do, he should copy new matter for perhaps a quarter of an hour at an ordinary rate of working; and the number of lines or folios written will be a safe estimate of the capabilities of the operator and instrument combined. The great mistake into which purchasers are often led is caused by the "one-minute standard" of speed ordinarily adopted. Manufacturers have shown the wonders of a minute, and the impression has remained in the listener's mind that this rate could be continuous. An empty cylinder on a power press can be run at an incredible speed; but, when a broad ribbon of newspaper is fed in, the speed is materially diminished. Five hundred movements in a minute by the space bar alone are stated to be possible with some favorite machine, but the operator has not yet been found who can write a sentence containing the same number of movements in the same time. The action of any instrument is necessarily limited, and depends fully as much on the operator, and his or her capabilities, as on the machine; but it will be safe to assume that steady work can be accomplished at about three-fifths the speed of a one-minute or two-minute spurt. In order to test the matter as thoroughly as possible, the writer of this article personally witnessed and timed the typing of this paragraph relating to speed, with the results given below. In every instance a skilled operator with a machine in perfect order was selected, and every condition made favorable for a fair trial."

Miss M. E. Orr of New York was chosen to represent the Remington machine, and wrote the above article from dictation, in the presence of the authorized witness, i- four minutes and twenty-nine seconds, without error, defeating all competitors, There are three hundred and eighty-four words in the article, so that Miss Orr averaged eighty-five words per minute—remarkable speed considering the matter, which operators will at once perceive is difficult. Miss Orr made a second trial, in the presence of the same witness, and succeeded in writing the article in four minutes and sixteen seconds; but, as there were a few errors in the copy, it was condemned.

demned.

The question of typewriter speed is one that is often discussed amongst operators; and we publish the above in order to give our readers opportunity of comparing their speed with that of Miss Orr.—From the Typewriter Operator.

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