

TYPEWRITING BLINDFOLDED.

Champion McGurrin Shows What He Can Do on the Celebrated Remington Machine.

A novel exhibition took place last evening at the rooms of the Rochester Business University. By special request, Mr. Frank E. McGurrin, the fastest typewriter in the world, gave an exhibition of his wonderful skill. McGurrin, it will be remembered, won the silver medal in the international tournament at Toronto in August last, the gold medal and championship being awarded to Miss Orr, of New York, (both Remington operators.) Miss Orr has retired from competitions, and McGurrin having broken all previous records in all classes of typewriter work, is conceded to be the fastest operator the world has seen. He uses all his fingers, and with bewildering dexterity. To see him operate one would suppose that he was simply striking the keys, indiscriminately, against time, and from such rapid manipulation an indecipherable copy would be expected; but a reference to his written pages showed accuracy and neatness—a result which reflects fully as much credit on the machine as on the operator.

Until last night our local typewriters had sneered at the idea of any operator writing 100 words per minute, on ordinary and unfamiliar matter. Imagine their surprise when McGurrin rattled off 100 words per minute, from the pages of a text book on commercial law, picked up in the college rooms. But still more surprising, a bandage was tied around his eyes, and thus blindfolded he wrote from dictation the article from the same work at ninety-eight words per minute. From dictation from law reports, Mr. McGurrin wrote 134 words a minute. This is a skill which few, if any other operators possess, but Mr. McGurrin explains that it can be easily acquired, provided a machine is used with a keyboard sufficiently compact. The keys of Mr. McGurrin's machine are entirely covered by his two hands, so that having learned the relative position of the characters, the use of the keys is unnecessary. He is thus enabled to copy manuscript without removing his eyes from the page, effecting a saving of about 33 1/2 per cent.

Mr. McGurrin doesn't believe that the writing of short sentences containing short words, is a test of either the machine or the operator, but inasmuch as certain rival machines are resorting to that method of making misleading speed records, he would show what he could do in that line, but begged the audience to remember that it was a pet sentence, and that he did not attach any importance to it as a record. He then wrote the sentence "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party," continuously for one minute. And how he pounded those keys! But the little machine responded every time, and he submitted his copy to the audience, showing 157 words, 155 of which were correctly written. Several hundred specimens of work at about this speed were freely distributed amongst the audience.

The possibilities of the typewriter seem incalculable, and it would not be surprising to see it yet perfected to the capacity of verbatim reporting.

Bargains in Table Linens.

Typewriter

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