



The following illustration explains the system of self-spacing type, recently introduced by a Milwaukee foundry :

One unit.—Space.	1
Two units.—Space, f i j l . , ; ; ' : ! i ' \ . Total,	14
Three units.—Quad, c e g r s t z ?) † ‡ * †] † † † I C J S T Z - o . Total,	25
Four units.—Quad, a b d h k n o p q u v x y f i f f \$ £ i 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 o C J S Z A B D E F G H K L N O P Q R U V X Y & ¼ ½ ¾ ⅓ ⅔ ⅝ ⅞ - } . Total,	67
Five units.—w æ œ A B D E F G L N O P Q R T U V Y & M W Æ œ lb. Total,	25
Six units.—Quad, m f f i H K M X - Total,	11
Seven units.—W Æ œ @. Total,	4
Twelve units.—Quad,   — Total,	5
Grand total to the font,	152

FOREIGN.

THERE are seventy-two newspapers published in Mexico.

THE number of printing-offices in London in 1805 was 200; now there are over 2,000.

IN Paris there are 4,500 compositors and 300 licensed printers. There are also 500 master lithographers, employing 5,000 workpeople—men, women and children.

RACEO MINA, an Italian author, who has dedicated a book to Postmaster-General Gresham, now asks that official to send him enough money to cover the expense of printing the first edition.

ACCORDING to the latest returns, the number of volumes in the British Museum is over 1,300,000. There are over 160 miles of shelves, and about 20 more miles to be filled. It is calculated that about one ton of literature is sent in daily.

THE *Lyttleton Times*, published daily at Christchurch, New Zealand, is now one of the foremost papers in that colony. On March 15 the *Times* was issued for the first time from a new and imposing building in Gloucester street, and in commemoration of the event two supplements were given away with the issue for the day.

THE London *Printing Times and Lithographer*, in its "Legal Jottings," tells of a precocious youth who willfully destroys engravings and electrotypes to the amount of £15 in order to get rid of his indentures to the printing trade. Although the indentures were canceled, the alderman sentenced him to two months' hard labor.

AGAIN we have an assurance, this time from Paris, that the problem of machine composition has been solved. Each machine produces 6,000 an hour (including distribution), and the cost is only 10 fr. 50 cent. per day (\$2.10). This would bring down the price of composition to 17 centimes per thousand. The machines are termed *velo-types*.

THE *Publishers' Circular* gives the number of books published in England in 1883 at 4,732. Of these 794 were theological, 556 educational and philosophical, 414 history and biography, 349 fiction, 210 voyages and travels, 187 political and social economy, 163 medical and surgical, and 130 law and jurisprudence. Fiction was responsible for but a thirteenth.

THE success of the first competition initiated by M. Berthier among French jobbing printers has induced the author to arrange for a second one for 1884. Competing work must be sent in by April 15. Two prizes, of 200 and 300 francs, will be given for a composition in brass rules and borders, size medium quarto to folio, of practical value; and one prize of 150 francs for presswork, black or colored. Two smaller prizes will be given besides in each case. Persons successful in the 1883 contest cannot compete for prizes.

FAST COMPOSITION.—At the printers' tournament a couple of months ago, at Berlin, in the Court Printing Office of Herr Buxenstein, the measure to which the composition was done was sixty-two letters, the German system of typographic computation being based upon the letters of the alphabet, not upon ems, as with us. Reprint copy was placed before all the competitors and bourgeois type used. The smallest amount was 2,500 letters in one hour, and 3,124 the largest amount. In the second tournament the first prize went to Herr Kramer, who picked up 9,415 letters in three hours.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

RULING-INKS can be made to dry quickly by adding half a gill of methylated spirits to every pint of ink. The spirit is partly soaked into the paper and partly evaporates; it also makes the lines firm.

TO MAKE OLD WRITINGS LEGIBLE.—In a pint of boiling water put six bruised gall nuts, and let it stand for three days. Wash the writing with the mixture to restore the color, and if not strong enough, add more galls.

CLOSE WORK.—Lord Chatham brought an action against Henry Sampson Woodfall, publisher of the *Public Advertiser*, for a libel. On the discovery of the variation of one letter between the printing and the the record, his lordship was nonsuited.

FREDERICK W. DUNNELL, of Tompkinsville, N. Y., has patented an end cap for paper rolls. It consists of a sheet metal cylindrical band, with an inwardly projecting scalloped edge, and with an end fastening to adapt it to be applied to the end of the roll.

RICE PASTE.—This is especially to be recommended in cases where it is desired that the objects pasted on or together shall undergo no change in color or shading. It is prepared by mixing rice flour and water, which mixture is then heated slowly to boiling point, until the required consistency is obtained. It possesses great adhesive power.

MR. COURTLAND CARLTON, of Kalamazoo, Mich., has secured a patent for a perforating device. The invention is quite novel in construction, its chief features consisting of perforating or cutting devices for separating or partially separating the paper at the time of printing.

AN extensible clasp for books has been patented by Mr. Jacob Monch, of Offenbach-on-the-Main, Germany. The clasp is formed of two plates, one adapted to slide under the other, the lower one having a diagonal slot, into which a stud of a nut or block passes, so the clasp can be easily lengthened or shortened according to the thickness of the book.

STICKY TYPE.—It is said that types, especially new ones which have been papered and put away for a long time, and which consequently stick badly, may easily be separated by placing them on the stone and pouring a little glycerine upon them, leaving them to stand there over night. The glycerine may be washed away with warm water, when the types will be found ready for distribution.

THE name of foolscap, as applied to paper, is said to have originated in the following manner: During the Protectorate, Cromwell had all government paper stamped with a Liberty cap. After the Restoration, Charles II one day asked for some paper on which to write a letter, and noticing the stamp thereon, inquired what it meant. On being informed, he replied: "Take it away; none of your foolscap for me."

A WIPING and polishing apparatus for plate printing machines has been patented by Mr. Alexander Reid, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Combined with the reciprocating bed of the press is a roller having slots, webs, paying-off spools, receiving spools, and means for rotating the spools and vertically reciprocating the roller; the whole being an improved device for wiping off surplus ink and polishing the plate before taking an impression.

BENTON, WALDO & CO., of Milwaukee, claim to have perfected a machine for cutting punches for original characters for type foundries in steel,—an invention which will much cheapen the ordinary process of cutting by hand. It will cut from the largest to the smallest punch—even to half-diamond; while as a time-saver, we may state that a piece of work now requiring four hours to perfect by the hand process can, under its operation, be turned out in *half an hour*.

AN exchange contains the following recipe for printers' rollers: Best white glue, one pound; concentrated glycerine, one pound. Soak the glue over night in just enough cold soft water to cover it. Put the softened glue in a fine cloth bag, gently press out excess of water, and melt the glue by heating it over a salt-water bath. Then gradually stir in the glycerine and continue the heating, with occasional stirring, for several hours, or until as much of the water is expelled as possible. Cast in oiled brass molds, and give the composition plenty of time to cool and harden properly before removing from the mold and inking. See that the ink is well spread before bringing the roller in contact with type.

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