

Dr. Nansen on the Prevention of Scurvy.

Dr. Nansen, in his lecture at the Albert Hall on "Some Results of the Norwegian Arctic Expedition," among other highly interesting matters touched upon one of great medical interest. We all know the difficulty that has been experienced, and has always to be encountered, on such expeditions, and frequently in those of a military nature, in regard to scurvy, a malady which has hitherto been usually found to occur in Arctic explorations. Dr. Nansen ventured to declare that it was very easy to avoid that disease by taking proper precautions, and he proceeded to relate his experience: "Dr. Torup, professor of physiology at the University of Christiania, had come to the conclusion, after examining the subject, that scurvy must arise from poisoning, caused, in particular, by badly preserved meat and fish. He thought that in the decomposition which takes place in the meat from bad preserving—in salt meat, for instance—there was poisonous matter allied to the so-called ptomaines, which, when constantly partaken of, engendered the malady we call scurvy. Particular attention was paid to this at the time of their equipment, and from their experience and the investigations he had the opportunity of making during the journey, he could entirely subscribe to Torup's opinion in this matter. It was to be hoped that in a near future there would be scientific elucidation of this important point; and it was equally to be hoped that certain means for avoiding this hitherto so fateful sickness might be shown." Whether this supplies a key to the explanation of all the outbreaks of scurvy that have occurred, it would be premature to declare; but it marks a new departure, and is well worthy of further investigation. Meanwhile, we think it may possibly account for some of the outbreaks about which a difference of opinion existed as to whether they were to be entirely explained by the absence of fresh vegetables.—Lancet.

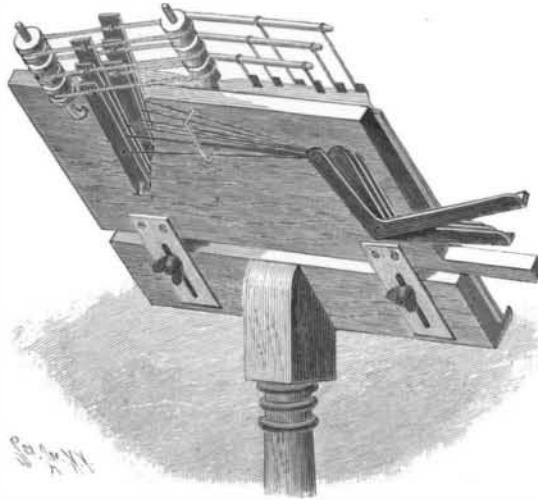
A SHORTHAND TYPEWRITER.

In 1893 there appeared in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN an illustration and description of a small typewriter designed especially for rapid work, having but a limited number of keys, arranged to be covered simultaneously by the fingers of both hands, and enabling the operator to make a good and rapid stenographic report on the typewriter itself. The machine was the invention of Mr. G. K. Anderson, of Nos. 97 and 99 Nassau Street, New York, and the accompanying illustration represents an improved machine of the same class, for which a patent has been recently issued to the same inventor. As will be seen, the characters are printed transversely across a continuous strip of paper, a word being printed at one stroke in plain English letters. An ordinary typewriter is handicapped in the matter of speed by the fact that only one key can be struck and only one finger used at a time—nine fingers being always idle. By this invention, the keyboard is so constructed that all the keys can be operated simultaneously. The machine has only sixteen printing keys, arranged in pairs, so that each finger can operate two; hence, sixteen characters can be printed at each stroke, if needed; and by the use of a pair of shift keys at each side of the keyboard, the capacity of each printing key is increased, just as the use of a shift key on the ordinary typewriter enables the operator to print either a small letter or a capital by using or not using the shift. On the Anderson machine, however, the shift keys and the printing keys are struck together and the hands remain substantially in one position, simply moving up and down, each finger above the pair of keys assigned to it, instead of darting here and there over a large keyboard. The illustration shows an operator in the act of printing the word "mankind." One downward movement of the hands prints the word, and as soon as they are lifted the machine automatically shifts the paper forward ready for the next word. It is claimed that this machine can be operated at a speed of 100 words a minute after six weeks' practice, and that its possibilities in the way of speed are greater than those of stenography; that it will not only save the time now spent in learning shorthand, but will do away with errors and illegible notes, and that in courts and large mercantile establishments a corps of typewriter copyists can be kept busy transcribing while a single Anderson operator is "taking." This typewriter is now in practical use in several large mercantile establishments, and operators are regularly being taught to work with its assistance

instead of learning the more complicated systems of shorthand reporting.

A NOVEL MUSIC LEAF TURNER.

A device designed to facilitate the turning of leaves of music, obviating the annoying delays so frequently embarrassing to a performer, is shown in the accompanying illustration, a rear view being given as indicating the manner of connecting the operating levers with the leaf-turning mechanism. The improvement has

**FLETCHER'S MUSIC LEAF TURNER.**

been patented by James Fletcher, of Chauncey, Westchester County, N. Y. To bring the upper edge of the music always in the same relative position to the leaf-turning mechanism, the top portion of the stand is made adjustable by thumbscrews, and in the top edge is a central pivot carrying rollers, from which extend horizontal leaf-carrying arms, provided with clamps or other devices for engaging the sheets of music. On another pivot, on the rear side of the music holder, are rollers, connected by cords with the rollers carrying the horizontal arms, and to these cords are connected two sets of pivoted operating levers, the different sets being connected to opposite sides or runs of the cords. These levers are connected by other cords to pivoted bell crank levers carrying keys in convenient reach of the player. A rigid arm projects from the music holder at one side, beneath which the thumb may be placed as the finger engages a key lever, to facilitate operating the device by pressing the thumb and finger together, thus obviating any tendency to shake or move the holder. By reason of the connection of the levers with both sides of the cords, it is obvious that the leaves may be turned in either direction, one or more pages being turned at once if desired. The keys may be placed at either side, or, by a slightly altered arrangement, on both sides, and, as the harder parts of the

**THE ANDERSON TYPEWRITER.**

mechanism do not strike each other, the device is designed to be practically noiseless.

A STEEL manufactory at Meurthe-et-Moselle recently blew out one of its furnaces which had remained in blast for seventeen years, in order to rebuild it to a height of seventy-five feet.

Shoe Eyelets.

There are many things that are sold by the gross, and not a few that are sold by the thousand, but there are not many that are sold by the million. Among the things that are so sold, however, are shoe eyelets, says the New York Sun.

Shoe eyelets are made of brass, by machines whose operation is almost entirely automatic. Three or four machines are required to produce the eyelet in the form in which it is sold, the brass being fed into the first machine in thin, flat strips. As sold to the shoe manufacturer, the eyelet is turned down at one end only. The eyelets look as much as anything like so many little hats with narrow brims and without any tops in the crowns. The upper end of the crown, which is like the end of a little cylinder, is put through the eyelet hole in the shoe, the finished brim or flange of the eyelet resting against the leather upon the outside. After the eyelet has thus been put in place its inner end is turned down upon the leather by a machine made for that purpose. In the manufacture of the eyelets a number of very slight vertical indentations are made at equal distances apart in the outside of the eyelet around the smooth, straight end. When the shoe machine smashes down the inner side of the eyelet the metal parts at these indentations are spread uniformly, thus giving it a secure hold.

Eyelets are made of various sizes in diameter and of various lengths of shank or cylinder, according to the thickness of the material with which they are to be used; and after they come from the machines they are finished in great variety. Some are finished white—these are silver plated; some are gilt finished and some are coppered. Eyelets are japanned in black or in various shades of russet; they are, in fact, made in any size and of any color that may be desired. Sooner or later the japanning wears off, exposing the brass. There are now made shoe eyelets that are covered with celluloid, which keep their color, but these are much more expensive than the kinds commonly used.

Shoe eyelets are packed in boxes containing 1,000, 10,000, 100,000, 250,000, and 500,000 each. Eyelets of the kinds most commonly used are sold, according to sizes and styles, at prices ranging from \$60 to \$135 a million. Some of the celluloid-covered eyelets sell for as much as \$500 a million.

The sale of shoe eyelets depends, of course, somewhat upon the prevailing style of shoe. When button shoes are more generally worn, not so many shoe eyelets are sold, but the number sold is always very large.

Eyelets are made for a wide variety of uses, up to the great eyelets that are sewed into the corners of sails, through which the sail is lashed to the end of the boom or yard. Taking them all together, the number is enormous; of shoe eyelets alone there are sold in this country some thousands of millions annually.

Veils and Vision.

Dr. Casey A. Wood, an American specialist, says that it is within the experience of every ophthalmologist that the wearing of veils produces weak eyesight, headaches, and sometimes vertigo and nausea. Not only are these effects produced by the eye strain consequent upon the increased efforts made by one or both eyes to see through or around an obstruction, but the irregular figuring on the veil itself is in some instances an annoyance to the wearer. Dr. Wood had a dozen typical specimens of veils selected for him, and made a number of experiments with them to determine the extent to which veils of various kinds affected the eyesight. He sums up his results as follows: 1. Every description of veil affects more or less the ability to see distinctly, both at a distance and near at hand. 2. The most objectionable kind is the dotted veil, although the influence for evil of this variety is more marked in some samples than in others. 3. Other things being equal, in undotted and non-figured veils vision is interfered with in direct proportion to the number of meshes to the square inch. 4. The texture of the veil plays an important part in the amount and kind of eye strain produced by the veil. When the sides of the mesh are single compact threads, the eye is embarrassed very much less in its effort to distinguish objects than when double threads are employed. 5. The least objectionable veil is that without dots, sprays, or other figures, but with large, regular meshes made with single compact threads.