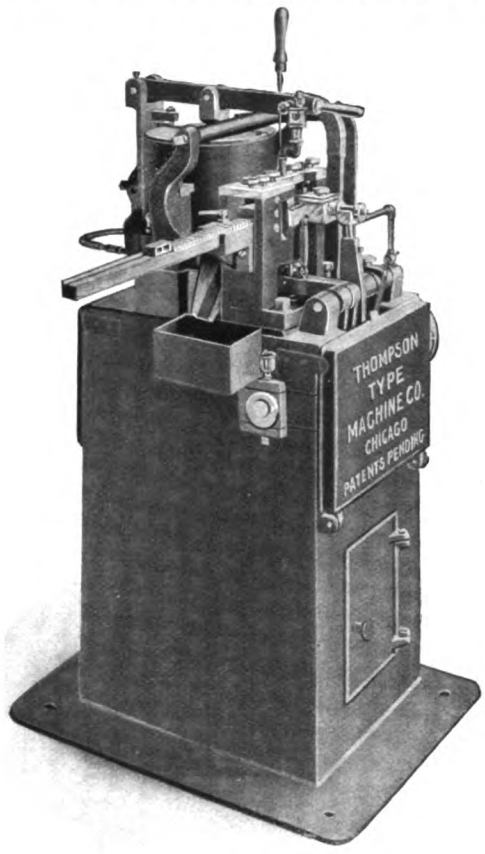
PRINTERS TO MAKE THEIR OWN TYPE.

Herewith is shown a reproduction of the new Thompson Typecaster, the advertisement of which appears elsewhere in this issue, which has just been placed on the market. This is a machine designed to enable the printer to cast his own type. As will be seen, the machine is a model of compactness and simplicity, and its mechanism can readily be mastered by any printer. It casts all sizes of type up to thirty-six-point at varying speeds up to nine thousand type per hour. The product is perfect in every particular, and as old foundry type can be thrown into the metal-pot, its hardness and quality are equal to any type.



THE THOMPSON TYPECASTER.

The most striking feature of the Thompson Typecaster is the matrix it employs — the ordinary Linotype matrix — although it is built to cast type from any other matrix desired — Monotype, Compositype or foundry matrix. Thus it is possible for the composing-machine user to exactly match his type with sorts made on the Thompson machine.

A catalogue just issued by the Thompson Type Machine Company points out the various uses to which this machine can be put. The claim is made that by eliminating electrotyping of forms, and running them direct from the type, which can then be dumped into the metal-pot, the saving in this one item will in many instances pay for the cost of the machine. Added to this is the saving of distribution, the saving which comes from running large forms (the quantity of type in any face or font being limitless when one casts it on the premises), and the saving in make-ready in the pressroom because of using new type. It also follows that the best results in printing are obtained with new type.

It is pointed out that Linotype matrices cost but 3 cents each, any font, any character, and that the Mergenthaler agencies carry large stocks in over three hundred different faces, in sizes from five to fourteen point, inclusive. As these limits embrace about seventy-five per cent of the average printing-office type equipment, the bulk of the type can be made from the ordinary Linotype matrix. Above these sizes, Monotype or Compositype matrices are used. The Thompson machine handles either or all kinds. "Low" quads and spaces are made up to forty-six-point in size.

Logotypes are also made on this machine with equal facility. The desired characters in Linotype matrices are grouped before the mold and any width of logotype made up to four picas. In tabular work and lists of all kinds this seems to be a valuable feature.

As the Linotype matrix catalogue shows faces in German, Hebrew, Greek and Russian, as well as all manner of accented characters, the foreign market is also being looked to, patents being applied for in every civilized country on the globe.

The price of the Thompson machine includes the equipment to cast type in six, eight, ten, twelve and fourteen point sizes. A one-quarter horse-power motor drives the machine.

Printers who have seen the machine in operation have given it high praise, and many have left orders for the machines. The first lot to be put through their factory is already contracted for, and steps are being taken to increase their facilities.

The exhibition room at 130 Sherman street, Chicago, is the headquarters of the Thompson Type Machine Company.

SHOP STUDY FOR MECHANICS.

According to Consul Frank W. Mahin, of Nottingham, a firm at Lincoln engaged extensively in the manufacture of machinery has introduced a variation of the apprenticeship system which is attracting wide attention and favorable comment, concerning which he writes:

"The rule in this country is to bind a boy for seven years, from the age of fourteen to twenty-one, during which period he leads a narrow, treadmill life. The Lincoln firm, however, takes apprentices at any age between fifteen and twenty-two, one inducement to this being the expectation that the boy of sixteen to eighteen will have had a good school education and will therefore be better fitted than a boy of fourteen to master the trade. To encourage boys at sixteen to eighteen to become apprentices, the same wages will be paid them as if they had begun at fifteen.

"But the most important part of the Lincoln firm's new apprentice system is to give all deserving apprentices a varied shop experience and to supplement the shop work with courses of instruction bearing directly thereon. By combining mental training with shop work it is believed that more intelligent workmen will be evolved than under the old system."

That the labor situation of this country in regards to the supply of skilled workmen is demanding serious attention from manufacturers, says the *Iron Trade Review*, is shown by the means taken by a large number of concerns to educate apprentices so that at the end of a given period of instruction they will be competent to perform any work assigned to them. Various methods to accomplish this end have been adopted by different establishments, each method being designed to fit the needs of the particular concern employing it. As a rule, however, this work has been confined to the larger and more prosperous manufacturers, the comparatively small shop being barred from the use of a plan of this character for a number of reasons, prominent among which are expense and the necessity of having a large number of apprentices in order to make the assignment of instructors economical.