BUSINESS LETTERS.

Write to a Man Just as You Would Talk to Him at Your Desk.

Business letter writing is no longer merely "correspondence," but "literature," and the correspondent who formerly wasted his precious breath on such inanities as "Yours received and contents duly noted" is now relegated to the "old school" class, and unless he is willing to adopt the new rules of letter writing he is likely to change not only his position, but find it necessary to change his vocation as well.

The up to date business man does not waste time indulging in the preliminaries of "I beg to acknowledge receipt" or "In reply would say," but goes straight to the subject at issue firmly, without frills, even eliminating the time worn advice, "Awaiting your early reply," and closing without the absurdity of "Begging to remain."

"Write to a man exactly as you would talk to him if he were sitting at your desk," is the maxim of one of the best authorities on letter writing in Chicago. By eliminating useless phrases having no bearing on the subject the business man not only saves his own time in dictating, but that of his stenographer in transcribing the notes. By the old method of letter writing the opening and closing of letters contained almost five lines of useless "form" matter which would average on 100 letters just 500 lines of superfluous effort.—Chicago Tribune.

THE CRESCENT.

Legend of Its Adoption as an Emblem by the Turks.

The crescent has been known since time out of memory. In ancient mythology it decorated the foreheads of Diana and of Astarte, the Syrian Venus. In the days of Rome's greatest glory the ladies wore it as an ornament in their hair.

Since the foundation of Constantinople, the ancient Byzantium, it has been the emblem of the city and as such adorns its walls and public buildings, besides being stamped on its coins and postage. The legend which accounts for its universal adoption in Turkey, and Constantinople in particular, is as follows:

Philip of Macedon laid siege to the city in the year 340 B. C. He chose a night of unusual darkness for the proposed assault, but was foiled by the moon suddenly breaking from behind a cloud. In commemoration of this providential deliverance the crescent was adopted as the symbol of the city. The Mohammedan sultans were slow to assume this emblem until some one mentioned that it was the symbol of increasing greatness, power changing as rapidly as the phases of the moon. —Westminster Gazette.

Why He Left.

Long—Why did you leave the place where you formerly boarded?

Short—Because the landlady had too much curiosity.

Long—In what direction?

Short—Oh, she was continuously asking me when I was going to pay my board bill.—Chicago News.

The Next Question.

"Dora's invited to a swell party," said the mother.

"How much will the gown cost?" asked the father, who knew what was coming.—Detroit Free Press.

Not a Freshman.

Caller—I didn't know your son was at college. Is this his freshman year? Mrs. Bunderby—Oh, no, indeed! He's a sycamore.—Boston Transcript.

The Assembly of Notables.

The assembly of the notables at Versailles, Nov. 5, 1788, will ever stand as one of the great landmarks in human progress, not on account of itself, but in conseuence of what it led to. Louis XVI., being in great financial straits, had already called together the big men of his realm, but it is with this second meeting of the great ones that history will ever be the most profoundly concerned. The "notables," made up of the nobility and aristocracy of the realm, listened to their own voices and displayed their gold lace and vanity for something over a month and adjourned without doing anything either for the king or the people. Disgusted with the stupidity and indifference of the notables, Louis convoked the states general, which was composed of representatives of the nobility, clergy and third estate, or plain people. Maddened by the contemptuous treatment they received at the hands of nobles, the delegates of the third estate organized themselves into the national assembly, which in turn organized the revolution.—New York American.

John Bright and the Carpet.

A characteristic story of John Bright is told by Mrs. T. P. O'Connor in her book, "I Myself." He was at dinner one night with an M. P. whose wife by no means shared her husband's democratic sentiments. John Bright was sitting near his hostess, and she was rather annoyed at having him among her smart guests and thought to give him a direct snub, so she said during a pause in the conversation:

"Mr. Bright, this rug, I understand, was made by you, and I am very dissatisfied with it. I have only had it a short time, and it is very shabby and badly made."

"Is it?" said Mr. Bright, getting up deliberately from the table and taking a silver candelabrum, which he put down upon the floor, and, getting upon his knees, closely examined the carpet. "You are quite right," he said, blithely getting up; "it is a bad carpet, and I will order my firm to send you another in its place." And then he calmly resumed his political conversation, and the dinner went on.

The Curious Electric Eel.

The electric eel, which is common in the streams of Brazil, is possessed of a natural electric battery—a tremendous one. Beneath the skin are two pairs of peculiar little bodies passing longitudinally along the muscles and near the tail. One pair is next to the back and the other near the lower fin. These bodies are made up of a great number of little cells, two or three hundred of them, and plentifully supplied with nerves. Examination of one of these electrical organs has shown that in action it is very much like a galvanic battery, with the anterior extremely positive, the posterior negative and the current only discharged at the point of contact with an object. This has been proved to be so powerful when complete that chemical compounds are decomposed by it and steel needles magnetized.

Eight Lions.

There are eight lions known the world over—the lion of St. Mark's in Venice, the four lions at the base of the Nelson monument in Trafalgar square, the lion of Waterloo, the lion of Lucerne and the lion of Chaeronea. Ruskin in his "Stones of Venice" said that the lion of St. Mark's was the one lion the fierce expression of which no artist had ever been able to reproduce. The beast of bronze has the distinction also of wearing a pair of wings.—London Graphic.