

this result to a lack of judgment on the part of any, whether elocutionists or not, who direct the training; and, other things being equal, will not a man who has made a special study of the subject be apt to direct this training the most wisely? Some deery all physicians on the ground that they kill off their patients. But this is true, as a rule, only of quacks. There are certainly physicians who benefit their patients; and the same is true of some elocutionists. If those called upon to select the latter would only exercise a little common sense, it might be true of almost all of them. A man's credentials for such a position should be examined. Has he studied the art, and with whom? Has he had experience in teaching, and with what results? More than this, what kind of a man is he in himself? Has he good judgment and insight? Has he modesty, so that he will give his pupils merely what they need, not what he thinks that he himself needs in order to increase their regard for him? Above all, has he the artistic temperament?—that supremacy of instinct over reflection and that flexibility, mental and physical, which enable a man to remain master of himself and of his material, notwithstanding any amount of the latter with which instruction and information may have surrounded him? How does he himself, in his own reading and speaking, manifest the results of the system that he purposes to teach? Occasionally one meets candidates for such positions who articulate with such pedantic precision that he feels like shaking them to see if teeth and tongue, which appear to have cut connection with head and heart, will not actually drop out. There are others who emphasize with so much artificiality that the chief impression conveyed comes from the dexterity with which subordinate words and clauses are kept dancing up and down, in order to assume an importance that the sense never intended to give them. It seems needless to say that the pupils for whom instruction is desired, as well as the cause of elocution in general, will be best served by giving such as these a cold shoulder, or, if necessary, a decided elbowing. This may turn their thoughts toward some course of life where they will be less likely to do harm. But there are plenty of teachers who are not of this sort; and to the instructions of some one of them, all the fully equipped orators with whom I have ever talked on the subject, have attributed a part of their success. I say fully equipped orators, because I have, indeed, known a few partially equipped, with harsh voices that could penetrate the ear but never touch the feelings, or peculiar antics that could attract the eye but certainly not charm the soul, who prided themselves on not having studied that of which it was their first duty to become masters. Not unfrequently, however, I have found that these same men had tried one elocutionist, at least once, and I have concluded that he probably told them the truth, for they have assured me that they had never gone to him a second time.