

When teaching the time names, be careful to *speak* them in accurate time; much of their value depends on this. And in pronouncing them, remember that the long form of vowel is only used when two vowels occur in the name, as TAA, and that when a name contains only one vowel, the short form is used; as ta fa to fe, not taa-faa-tee-fee.

Ear-training.—Ear exercises in time may be given in various ways. The teacher may tap on the desk with his pointer, or may tap the pulses and “laa” the notes, or he may write a number of pulses on the board, and question on what was sung in each pulse, again he may write a phrase on the board and questions on what alterations, if any, were made in singing it; or a pupil may be asked to sing a phrase and the remainder of the class criticise.

All this will sharpen the ears of the children, and make them better qualified to detect their own errors.

Tune tests are rather more difficult; as they cannot be “tapped,” and must be sung strictly in tune.

Before giving ear tests it will be of great assistance to recall the mental effects of the tones; also to give as much practice as possible in singing from the modulator and manual signs to the syllable “laa.”

Exercises may be given in almost countless forms. The simplest is to *imitate* a phrase sung by the teacher, then to tell whether the tones go up or down, if they commence above or below *doh*, to tell any particular tone out of three sung to figures, to tell what tone falls on a certain number, to tell any alteration made by the teacher in singing a phrase from the blackboard, to imitate, and afterwards *name*, a phrase of four or more tones; to tell those tones sung in *stepwise* succession, *without* imitating: and so on as the experience and ingenuity of the teacher may suggest.

In all cases, be careful to fully establish the tone chord first; and take care that the *dull* pupils understand; the quick are sure to do so. I prefer to ask for “hands-up” for answers, and then endeavour to elicit replies from those who persistently keep their hands *down*.

Voice-training.—Cultivate from the very first, a soft, pure tone. This can only be accomplished by persistent effort; for