

pitch, and tone, natural to his grandfather. The mother employs tones, gestures and expression totally unlike those which are equally natural to her husband.

Consider this question with reference to the simple act of breathing, which surely ought to be spontaneous and natural, since it is performed by the involuntary muscles. When God created man, He "breathed into his *nostrils* the breath of life," which was an object lesson of the only correct and natural method. Yet it may safely be said that the habit of inhaling by the mouth is universal, not one person in ten millions, perhaps, being entirely free from it. No habit is more suicidal to the voice. God has provided us with the only perfect musical instrument known to this earth. Of necessity it must be very sensitive, and deserving of careful preservation. He gave us a nasal chamber admirably adapted to the purpose, containing a large sponge to filter the atmosphere of dust, microbes, and fumes, while it warms the colder air to the temperature of the larynx. Whenever air is inhaled through the mouth all these hurtful conditions are forced upon the unprotected larynx, which resents this treatment by a cough, hoarseness, pain, and finally, total silence. Can we call this correct because it is "natural" — that is, habitual?

Articulation is another element of speech almost totally neglected, even in schools that insist upon correct pronunciation. As a result the educated preacher forms his words back in the throat, and obscures what intelligible sounds might be heard by doubling his tongue into the channel intended to give free exit to speech. Not content with this mumbling he drops his soft palate, which adds a nasal character to the voice, or he squeezes the cords of his throat until a rough, grating harshness results that is as disagreeable as it is hurtful. Even this "execution" does not satisfy this "natural" speaker. He must use his lips and tongue in such a manner as to torture vowels and consonants beyond recognition, and blend syllables until new words are formed, and meaningless distortions of language issue from his mouth; consequently, his hearers, who are not dull of ear, find it "difficult to hear" him, which he ignorantly endeavors to amend by straining his voice, or screaming. It is a strange fact we are totally ignorant of our own voices. We know how we