

PREFACE.

THE object which we have had in view, in preparing this work, has been to furnish the public with a clear and accurate description of the more recent and useful improvements in electrical science, and especially to explain the principles and operation of that marvellous production, the Speaking Telephone. In giving particular prominence to this part of the subject, however, we have by no means lost sight of another matter in connection therewith, of considerable historical importance, and which has also elicited an unusual amount of general interest. The question as to whom we are indebted for the telephone is one which, in consequence of the conflicting statements that have appeared from time to time, is, to say the least, extremely puzzling. We have, therefore, endeavored to give it the attention its importance demands, in order to arrive at a true solution of the problem, and, in doing so, have taken every opportunity to consult all available authorities on the subject. No effort has been spared in our investigation to obtain all the facts as they are; and these are now given as we have found them, without favor or prejudice. The reader will thus be enabled to judge for himself just what measure of credit to accord to each of the different experimenters who have been engaged with the problem of electrical transmission of articulate speech, and whose labors have been crowned with such abundant success.

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