

as wholes, and the changes of pitch are produced by variations of tension.



Vocal cords vibrating in part.



Vocal cords vibrating as wholes.*

Dr. Hewson, during the course of his lecture, gave utterance to rather a startling remark. If I understood him correctly, he expressed the opinion that some of the vowel sounds are formed in the larynx, and not in the mouth. I cannot agree with him in this opinion, although I am aware that he can quote authorities in support of his position. For example: Dr. E. M. Moore, of Rochester, N. Y., has published an account of the following case:† Some years ago Dr. Moore attended a man who had attempted suicide by cutting his throat. The cut was immediately above the thyroid cartilage, shaving off the epiglottis at its base. The wound resulted in an oval opening, two inches long by three quarters of an inch wide. The man was able to talk at any time by bending his head forward and temporarily closing the opening. When the head was thrown back he lost the power, but Dr. Moore noticed that under such circumstances he could pronounce vowel sounds like ah, oh, etc. The doctor was surprised at the clearness and distinctness of the vowel effects, for the sounds seemed to emanate from the yawning wound in the throat, and not from the mouth. Struck by this circumstance, the worthy doctor made a unique experiment. He introduced into the wound a sheet of buckskin, so placed as to prevent the possibility of any air passing from the larynx into the mouth. The only outlet left for the breath, was the yawning wound. He then asked the man to repeat the alphabet, A, B, C, etc. Dr. Moore found that under these circumstances, certain vowel sounds could be distinguished, and he came to the conclusion that these vowels were formed in the larynx, and not in the mouth.

This conclusion would be more reliable if he had shown that the man could pronounce these vowels with his mouth shut. Of course, if the vowels heard were really produced in the larynx alone, the closure of the lips would have made no difference in the

* These cuts are reproduced from "Voice, Song, and Speech."

† See Transactions of the New York State Medical Society, 1872, pp. 276-282.