

The American Voice a Neglected Instrument

By Otis Skinner.

There is no civilized country on the globe where so little attention is paid to the speaking voice, though nowhere is that attention more needed, than in America. Toward the criticism of foreigners we are supposed to be the most lenient of peoples; though criticism by ourselves, even when less sweeping, and certainly more well informed from long experience, is not received with the same genial tolerance.

Many, notably the English, have rallied at and ridiculed what they and our friends on the continent term "the frightful American voice." No end of unpleasant comment has been applied to it, and much deservedly; but by some strange oversight none appears to have looked for the underlying cause of this national defect, nor has any suggestion of remedy been advanced.

It is to the schools, the universities, the pulpits and in part to the stage, that this almost universal misdirection of the American voice is due. Not until certain forces realize and set about correcting this misdirection, the result mainly of ignorance or careless indifference, may any improvement be expected. The writing of articles and isolated instances of individual zeal promise little. The direct causes of influence must be aroused to some sense of responsibility before any real reform can be awakened.

To judge of the misdirection of the American voice, we have to get into contrast with the French, Italian, and English tone in speech; though for this last I do not sustain the same unreserved admiration accorded by many. The Italian voice is eloquently musical; the French, though in less degree, is both musical and agreeable; the English, in frequent instances is of an uncommonly mellow charm.

These facts we have to face when we consider our own vocal shortcomings as a people.

Handicaps We Have. We are not an art-loving nation; our strenuous haste is uncompromising. We have in each section of the country the handicap of some special vocal inheritance. The New England voice has yielded to the droning ancestry of the Puritan parson; in Pennsylvania there is another kind of nasal, harsh, hard and a trifle more aggressive—which may come in a way from the drone of the Quaker, or in a measure from the Puritan element. In that section there is too the worst English of the Pennsylvania Dutch and its contributing inflection. The negro dialect has corrupted the speech of the south, which is softer and more tender, mainly because the tone of speech of southern peoples is everywhere more soft and musical. In the west there is an atrocious but not a sound of the letter R, which in Michigan is heard in all its pristine terror. If the sections of the entire country were taken separately it would be found that each has its special, particular inflection. The great mass give absolutely no thought to musical tone as an invaluable factor in the common associations of everyday life.

To begin direct the misused speaking voice of the present adult generation properly is well nigh useless; it is likely too firmly fixed in the wrong way ever to attain the right one. It is in children that hope must lie, if any hope may be entertained in existing conditions.

The schools are largely responsible for bad pronunciation, enunciation, and faulty tone quality of voice. The teacher himself may speak with an exaggerated burr or possess some individual vocal evil; the child, generally loving the teacher, imitates him adoringly, even more so than it imitates the parents. Yet the board of education is not bothered anywhere by any such defects in engaging teachers. The teacher, on the other hand is nowise disturbed so long as the pupils answer is technically correct, by either the enunciation or the tone in which it is given. The same may be said of the Sunday school teacher, in whose

is a good sermon delivered in a bad voice is a lost effort. That there is no known instrument equal in beauty to the human voice is so true that it would scarcely be needed to repeat it, were it not that the truism seems so seldom remotely connected with the speaking voice. The musical speaking voice is as effective as the singing one. That is a point upon which too great stress is impossible.

A man who lacks smooth, agreeable intonation might as well place his voice in an agreeable register. If he takes a little pains he will likely soon find in what part of his throat that register lies.

There is no voice so disagreeable that it is incapable of improvement, and the worst point in the matter is that many voices are disagreeable only because of the lack of the need to the musical quality naturally in them. A voice used consistently, even with slight ear to its training, will certainly grow mellower.

With the young, at an age when everything leaves vivid impression, as I have said, the real hope of complete voice training and development. In their case the call is imperative.

What the Schools Should Do. In the public schools there should be a department of correct speech. It should be graded to supply the need of corresponding grades in other departments, beginning with the kindergarten. Where new teachers are engaged in any department, ability provided, preference should be given to those who command well trained voices. In this way the whole personnel of institutions could be advanced to some proper standard without any hint of revolutionizing, and finally be settled upon satisfactory basis.

Those public schools, excellent as they may be in many respects, present persistently turn out hard, raucous, nasal-voiced students in droves, to go through life aiding unconditionally in the general misdirection. Reformation of this culpable oversight once established in public schools, the movement would logically work itself out with the masses.

At present American refinement are by no means free of unmusical voices and nasality than the rest; each section, for obvious reasons, being affected accordingly.

With awakened knowledge, the importance of voice training for their children, that portion attending private schools would by preference be sent to those intelligently regarding the speaking voice.

Finally in universities consideration would be granted the matter, which is only likely to work up naturally in the ward. As those institutions are now regulated, the most flagrant delinquents in proper use of the voice are often the lecturing professors, who, no matter how well stored their minds, are given to exasperating monotony to constant recourse to the "er—er—ah," halting not only between sentences, but sing words, while their unvoiced peculiarities arouse derisive comment of their pupils. Such examples retard not only proper use of the voice but the proper acquirement of learning. Once an obvious, even good natured, man loses a generous share of his usefulness in imparting anything.

This insistence on the musical voice in speech, I do not remotely infer that the colloquial should be turned into arias; but I do mean that people be shown how properly to use the gift of voice naturally granted them, to develop that gift in a natural manner, and convert us from a nation given to varied and various tone abuses into a musically-speaking unit.

The effort required to attain it would not be one of supreme difficulty, but of concentrated attention and concerted action. The question is one of elimination and discipline, and the eliminated something of inestimable and practical value.

It means proper regard for the great ones. Such is the importance of a musical voice, which enhances the value of every idea put into speech; it means that the imparting of learning would be illuminated; that the stage would be strengthened and dignified, even largely absent; and that pulpits would be filled by men fully capable of impressing their messages upon congregations more capable of appreciating them.

As long as the cultivation of the speaking voice in America is so absolutely disregarded, our vaunted statistical mental culture remain unconvincing.

The King's Last Illness

An Official Statement by the British Medical Journal—
Smokers' Throat and Bronchial
Asthma—In Bad Health for a Year.

The Press Association is indebted to the British Medical Journal for a copy of the following statement, which will appear in its next issue: "King Edward VII. may be said, with perfect truth, to have died a martyr to his sense of duty as a sovereign. Throughout his reign he had insisted on performing his public duties without regard to his personal convenience. It was only within a day or two of his death that he could be prevailed upon to keep within doors, and even in the last throes of the distressing and dangerous complaint which was so quickly to cut short his valuable life he refused to take to his bed until his flagging powers could no longer be spurred into activity by his resolve to do so."

"From a medical point of view the case was perfectly simple, and the stopping of the machinery of life was due to causes about which there is nothing doubtful or mysterious. We think it necessary to point out this since the appearance on the bulletin of the name of a leading laryngologist gave rise to a revival of unfounded rumors which were current even before the deceased monarch came to the throne. Professor Sir Clair Thomson had, however, attended him on several occasions during the last eighteen months. Before that time Sir Felix Semon had often been called on to advise the King about his throat. It may be added that more than twenty years ago he had been seen by the late Sir Morell Mackenzie. For years the King had suffered from emphysema and a tendency to more or less acute bronchitis, with the usual symptoms of distressing and ineffective cough and difficulty of breathing. There was crepitation at the base of both lungs indicating a chronic impediment to the free passage of air through the smaller bronchial tubes. He was subject to attacks of laryngitis, producing a slight snarl of the vocal chords, but except for some inflammatory thickening of the hinder part of the glottis and chronic catarrh of the throat, there was no serious disease of the throat, and we are in a position to state, on the basis of dissection in the upper air passages, that the King, in short, had what is known as a 'smoker's throat,' and

this and the congestion and thickening due to this cause, combined with the loss of elasticity in the lungs, made it increasingly difficult for him to clear his chest. The strain thrown upon the heart by obstructing the passage of blood through the lungs caused by the collection of secretions in the bronchial tubes, had its natural sequel in dilatation of the right ventricle, and the actual cause of death was heart failure due to the increasing strain in the pulmonary circulation.

The Cause of Death. "It was, in short, a case of a type seen every day in thousands of elderly persons. The cause of death in such persons is purely mechanical, the action of the overlying heart being gradually stopped by increasing resistance in the lungs. Could the King have been induced to spare himself more he would probably have lived many years longer. Indeed, he had, indeed, suffered from glycosuria of varying degree for a long time, but this did not, as far as can be judged, tend to the shortening of his life. Another condition which may have caused considerable discomfort at times was a certain weakness in the abdominal wall at the site of the operation for appendicitis which was performed in 1902. We only mention these intimacies as the knowledge of what he had had to endure must increase the admiration which all Britons feel for the high courage and resolution of the sovereign whom they have lost. The state of his health would have been a reasonable excuse for his resignation of his duties. Of this weakness the late King showed no trace. A notable feature in him was the pluck with which he bore himself not only in the illness which has been mentioned but during the painful period when he was recovering from a fractured patella. Although he always listened to the advice of his physicians with respect, he did not always follow it if it seemed to him to stand in the way of the discharge of his duty. It should be a comfort to his subjects that he passed away peacefully before he had reached the stage of invalidism which is the frequent fate of sufferers from bronchial asthma.

In Bad Health for a Year. Except for the conditions which have been referred to, the King had till lately been in remarkably good health. But more than a year ago the strain began to tell on his robust constitution. He was ill when he

Here is an opportunity for the host who desires to serve "something different"—and better.

PATERSON'S

Cambridge Wafers

The new biscuit made from cream of wheat. Crisp, dainty and appetizing. "They really taste fine," exclaims your grocer, "they sell them in tins only."

Made by Paterson of Brantford

went to Berlin in the early part of last year. He was ill again in the autumn, and it was noticed by many of those who saw him at the opening of Parliament that he looked very weary and unwell. On his way through France he caught a fresh chill, and during the early days of his stay at Biarritz his condition caused some anxiety. The skill of his physicians and the care of his nurse, combined with the favorable influence of the climate, enabled him to shake off the enemy for a time. Had he been a private citizen he might have extended his stay at Biarritz, which was proving beneficial. He felt obliged, however, to return to his post to be ready to meet a crisis of great constitutional crisis. He returned from Biarritz without stopping. This hurried journey would have taxed his strength, even had he been in perfect health. Striking as he was from the effects of recent illness, the King might fairly have been excused from facing the risk of returning from the south to the cloudy skies and the cold winds and change of a temperate English spring. The result might almost have been foretold. Though the end came with startling suddenness to his people, it was clear to those about him that the end was imminent before any whisper of alarm had found its way outside the palace.

"The first bulletin issued on Thursday revealed the real nature of the situation to those who could read between the lines. During the last night the state of the heart made the august patient very restless, but the next day he was able to transact business for a short time. Gradually he became unconscious, reviving once or twice sufficiently to recognize the Queen and some of the others about him but the unconsciousness deepened into coma, and the royal sufferer passed away so quietly that it seemed 'to cease upon the midnight with no pain.'

"The King was attended throughout by his physicians in ordinary—Sir Francis Laing, Sir James Reid, and Sir R. Douglas Powell, and by one of his physicians-extraordinary, Dr. Bertrand Dawson, Dr. St. Clair Thomson being called in consultation. Some time ago his majesty underwent a course of vaccine treatment at the hands of Dr. Spittles, bacteriologist at St. George's Hospital. All the resources of modern science were used in the last illness. He was nursed by his wife and his daughters, and he had learned to appreciate at the time of the operation performed by Sir Frederick Treves.

Two Pairs of Hosiery FREE

You pay the same price for the hosiery you are now wearing as you would for Pen-Angle Guaranteed Hosiery. Yet it isn't nearly so serviceable as Pen-Angle. We are so positive of this that we doubly guarantee Pen-Angle Guaranteed Hosiery to wear longer than any other cotton or cashmere hosiery, we care not what make or brand.

This is Our Double Guarantee

We guarantee the following lines of Pen-Angle Hosiery to fit you perfectly, not to shrink or stretch and the dyes to be absolutely fast. We guarantee them to WEAR LONGER than any other cashmere or cotton hosiery sold at the same prices. If, after wearing Pen-Angle Guaranteed Hosiery any length of time, you should ever find a pair that fails to fulfill this guarantee in any particular, return the same to us and we will replace them with TWO new pairs FREE of charge.



Pen-Angle Hosiery

UNSHRINKABLE

Buying hosiery on this plan you cannot lose a single cent. If Pen-Angle Guaranteed Hosiery fails to fulfill the guarantee in any particular we bind ourselves to give you back, free of charge, twice as many pairs as you pay for.

The largest hosiery mills in Canada stand back of this astonishingly liberal guarantee. It will be fulfilled to the last letter.

Remember, the wear is not the only thing we guarantee. The fit, the comfort, and the permanence of the dyes are also guaranteed. Could you ask for more?

Pen-Angle Hosiery is made by an exclusive patented process. It is the only Seamless Hosiery made in Canada, that has the shape knitted into it.

The ordinary way to make Fashioned Hosiery is to stretch it into shape while wet. Such hosiery loses its shape after one or two washings.

Ask your dealer to show you Pen-Angle Guaranteed Hosiery. Our guaranteed lines have a guarantee slip in each box. Pen-Angle trade-mark is on the hosiery, too. If your dealer cannot supply you, state number, size and color of hosiery desired and enclose price, and we will fill your order direct.

FOR LADIES.
No. 1765 Black Cashmere hose. Medium weight. 2-ply leg. 5-ply foot, heel, toe and high splice, giving strength, where strength is needed. Box of 3 pairs, \$1.50; 6 pairs, \$3.00.
No. 1728 Cashmere hose. Medium weight. 2-ply leg. 4-ply foot, heel and toe. Black and colors. Box of 3 pairs, \$1.50; 6 pairs, \$3.00.
No. 1729 Cotton hose. Made of 2-ply Egyptian yarn, with 2-ply heels and toes. Black and colors. Box of 4 pairs, \$1.00; 6 pairs, \$1.50.

FOR MEN.
No. 2404 Medium weight 'cashmere' half-hose. Made of 2-ply Botany yarn with our special 'Everlast' heels and toes, which add to its wearing qualities, while the hand-knit cotton hose is comfortable. Black and colors. Box of 3 pairs, \$1.50; 6 pairs, \$3.00.
No. 2405 White weight black Cashmere half-hose. 4-ply body, spun from pure Australian wool. 5-ply silk splicing in heels and toes. Box of 3 pairs, \$1.50; 6 pairs, \$3.00.
No. 330 'Everlast' Cotton Socks. Medium weight. Made from 4-ply Egyptian cotton yarn, with 2-ply heels and toes. Black, light and dark tan. Box of 3 pairs, \$1.00; 6 pairs, \$2.00.

Dept. 22 PENMANS, Limited, Paris, Canada.

THE WAYS OF GREEK WOMEN

The Men Market for Them While They Electioneer for the Men.

Greek women have a code of propriety quite different from that followed by Americans. They have no women's clubs, a young girl of the well-to-do classes never ventures out unaccompanied, and it is only of late years that she has been allowed to follow the shops of the capital to buy their clothes.

With the exception of Christmas Eve, Easter Eve and New Year's Eve, when they accompany their men folk, the women leave the marketing to be done by their husbands, fathers and brothers. It is no uncommon thing to see Ministers of State and Deputies walking among the stalls, followed by their servants carrying baskets.

They purchase meat, vegetables and fruit, at the same time doing political propaganda and delighting the hearts of their electors. Politics plays a large part in every condition of Greece, and according to the Queen women take an active share in it.

A writer on the position of European women in domestic life tells us that in writing the Greeks often represents her husband before his electors and takes an active part in directing and supporting his political views. It is no uncommon thing for a woman to go off into the provinces to solicit votes for her husband, and she defends his cause with great ability in the drawing-room.

Women of the upper classes give a good deal of their time to philanthropic work and the ladies of the royal family take the lead in most of the charitable undertakings of the country. The women of the middle class, who are the backbone of the nation, are engaged in the training of girls, and the ladies of the wealthy women of Greece.

Education among Grecian women is becoming more general every year. In 1835 a college for girls was started at Athens by philanthropic American women. It proved a great success, and fifty years later the king publicly thanked Miss Hill, who was in charge, for her devotion to the cause of Greek women. About the same time a normal school for girls was opened through the generosity of a Greek gentleman.

The government then took the question up and soon an army of young teachers, many of them not more than sixteen or seventeen years of age, were distributed over the towns and hamlets of the country. They started girls' schools, and a Greek recently observed that 'there is no doubt my

AN EXCELLENT REMEDY FOR ALL BABIES

Baby's Own Tablets are an excellent remedy for babies of all ages. They cure all stomach and bowel ailments, make teething easy, dispel worms, and make baby fat, good-natured and healthy. They are sold under the guarantee of a Government analyst to contain absolutely no opium or narcotic, and thus they can be given to the newborn baby with perfect safety. Mrs. Benoit Martin, Avignon, Que., writes: "Baby's Own Tablets are an excellent remedy for babies and should be in every home where there are young children." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont.

country owes its rapid progress and Greek instruction to its women." In 1895 when George Mistriotis was professor of the Greek language at the University of Athens women students were first admitted to follow the course of studies and to pass examinations in philosophy, medicine and physico-mathematics.

Women do not serve in the shops to anything like the same extent as in other countries, and, as a rule, they are only to be seen at establishments for selling women's clothes. They are, however, now admitted to posts in the public telephone service, and are generally acknowledged that their voices are clearer and carry better than those of men; but the bill granting them permission was passed with parliament.

The number of women who are thrown on their own resources is, however, small, for a Greek father considers it his duty to provide dowries for his daughters, and brothers often refrain from marrying until their sisters are settled in life. Family affection is very strong; the Greek adores his children and will make any sacrifice for their welfare.

In a country where so many men are engaged in commerce the father is away for months and sometimes years at a time and the cares of the children and general interest of the family are left in the hands of the mother, who often proves an admirable administrator.

The peasant women work hard in Greece and take their full share in the national industries and agriculture. Popular prejudice is strong against girls leaving home till they marry; therefore few go out as domestic servants, but those who do so get good wages in Greek and Turkish towns; they are thrifty, honest and respectable, but untidy. It is only in the cities and cotton growing districts of Asia Minor that they are employed in the factories. The Greek peasant woman is healthy and happy, owing to a large measure to her outdoor life, and simple food, bread, olives, honey, currants, a little red wine and coffee make up her daily bill of fare.

A CHILLY VENUS.
To have the same hemisphere exposed everlastingly to sunlight, while the other is in perpetuity turned away, must cause a state of things of which we can form but faint conception from what we know on earth. Baked for aeons without let up and still baking, the sunward face must, if unshielded, be a Tophet surpassing our powers adequately to portray. And unshielded it must be, as we shall presently see. Reversely, the other must be a hyperborean expanse to which our polar regions are temperate abodes. For upon one whole hemisphere of Venus the sun never shines, never so much as peeps above the star-studded horizon. Night thoughts would appal the most intrepid of our Arctic explorers, and prevent at least everybody from going to the pole, or rather what here replaces it, "through the dark continent." It exemplifies the eventual effects of a force in astronomical mechanics, the importance of which is only beginning to be appreciated—tidal friction. It has brought Venus as a world to the deadly pass we have contemplated together. Starting merely as a brake upon her rotation, it has ended by destroying all those physical conditions which enable our own world to be what it is. Night and day, summer and winter, heat and cold, are the vital vicissitudes of our world, and upon our sister orb there are no changes while the centuries pass. An eternity of deathlessness is Venus' status quo—Popular Science Monthly.

Do You Use

Redbath

Extra Granulated and other grades of Refined Sugar? They represent perfection in Sugar Refining.

MANUFACTURED BY

The Canada Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.
MONTREAL, QUE.

Look at Me I've Always Eaten

Kellogg's

Kellogg's Toasted Corn Flakes should take the place of heavy foods for your children.

Kellogg's is now the principal cereal food of all the youngsters, as well as the older folks, in two-thirds of the nations' homes.

Its 90% food value makes the body and stomach stronger, the blood redder and the appetite keener.

"The Sweetheart of the Corn"

TOASTED

CORN FLAKES

10c A PACKAGE. AT ALL GROCERS. MADE IN CANADA.



FOR BABY'S TENDER SKIN

Sold throughout the world. Depot: London, 17, Old Broad Street. Paris, 10, Rue de la Paix. New York, 10, Broadway. San Francisco, 10, Broadway. Montreal, 10, Broadway. Toronto, 10, Broadway. Boston, 10, Broadway. Chicago, 10, Broadway. Philadelphia, 10, Broadway. St. Louis, 10, Broadway. Cincinnati, 10, Broadway. Cleveland, 10, Broadway. Detroit, 10, Broadway. Indianapolis, 10, Broadway. Louisville, 10, Broadway. Memphis, 10, Broadway. Nashville, 10, Broadway. New Orleans, 10, Broadway. St. Petersburg, 10, Broadway. Havana, 10, Broadway. Santiago, 10, Broadway. Valparaiso, 10, Broadway. Lima, 10, Broadway. Bogota, 10, Broadway. Medellin, 10, Broadway. Caracas, 10, Broadway. Port-au-Prince, 10, Broadway. Cap-Haitien, 10, Broadway. Santo Domingo, 10, Broadway. Santiago de los Caballeros, 10, Broadway. Havana, 10, Broadway. Santiago, 10, Broadway. Valparaiso, 10, Broadway. Lima, 10, Broadway. Bogota, 10, Broadway. Medellin, 10, Broadway. Caracas, 10, Broadway. Port-au-Prince, 10, Broadway. Cap-Haitien, 10, Broadway. Santo Domingo, 10, Broadway. Santiago de los Caballeros, 10, Broadway.