

## THE CURE OF SOPRANO VOICE IN THE ADULT MALE.

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IN all the literature available to the writer no reference can be found to the subject of soprano voice in the adult male. The causes which produce the various classes of voices; basses, contraltos, tenors and sopranos, are not wholly understood. The principles involved and agreed upon by the authorities at hand are as follows:—

1. A counterbalance between the chordae vocales and the crico-thyroidei muscles. The thinner, lighter and narrower the bands, the stronger in proportion are the muscles.
2. The length of the voice box.
3. The distance between the cords and the superior resonators, *i. e.* the pharynx and mouth.
4. The size and weight of the chordae vocales.
5. The proportion in size between the cords, on the one hand, and the voice-box and organs of resonance and reflection on the other.

The voices of children are much alike in the two sexes and remain so usually throughout the entire period of childhood. The vocal organ is quite small, proportionally to the bulk of the body, and the pitch of the voice is high. When girls reach the age of twelve or thirteen, and boys that of fourteen or fifteen, the larynx enlarges rapidly so that in from one to three years it becomes nearly double its former size. During this period what is popularly known as a change of voice occurs. This is most marked in boys, the pitch of whose voices will fall an octave, while in girls the pitch will fall but one or two notes. At the same time the quality or timbre of the voice becomes modified and acquires the natural tone which it retains during adult life. It sometimes happens that this change does not occur in the male adolescent. The larynx enlarges, but the voice retains the same pitch and quality. Sometimes no cause can be assigned for this, while in a few cases it is attributed to voice strain, acute laryngitis or diphtheritic laryngitis during the transition period. After a few years when it is realized that no change to a lower tone