

instruction. "Eternal vigilance is the price of success," and this, with instruction in the simpler details of construction, with a very little drill in the technicalities of the language, with frequent analysis and synthesis of sentences according to methods dictated by common sense, ought to enable the pupil of average capacity to leave this department with a reasonable knowledge of how an English sentence is built.

With regard to pronunciation, it is probable that the teacher can never overcome entirely the defects which are perhaps hereditary, and which have been strengthened by increasing years. But exercise of all the organs that contribute to the various elementary sounds of our language will benefit the most stubborn case. With some there is insufficient movement of the lower jaw, the effect of which is to keep the lips and teeth so closely shut that distinct enunciation is an impossibility. With others the tongue is heavy in its movements and needs exercise to render it more flexible, while many, if not all, carry themselves in such manner that the vocal organs are out of their natural position and this leads to husky tones, short breath, and the many other evils which produce that indistinct articulation so unpleasant and whose prevention ought to receive so much more attention than we accord it. Nothing is more productive of good results in the effort to gain possession of discarded sounds than frequent and thorough drills in phonetics.

To extend this vocabulary numberless good things may be tried. Exercises in synonyms, for which a book of synonyms may be provided, or, with more trouble, perhaps, the dictionary may be consulted, sentences containing homophonous words, the study of prefixes and suffixes, exercises in defining and in the synthesis of sentences from selected words, and many other devices may contribute to this end when one really wishes to master the intricacies of our composite language.

The importance of the question of slang must occupy the thoughts of all who care to preserve the beauty and purity of the language which, in the "last thirty years, has doubled its area and quadrupled its population." Though we denominate as slang many expressions which, through their very force, must become a part of our language, and though we are all willing to admit these "crystallized thoughts," yet it is easy to see that nothing so limits and contracts one's vocabulary as the continued use of slang, and for this reason, as well as that it is inelegant and often bids defiance to the requirements of good taste and the laws of language, the teacher should discountenance its use, and, by continued disapprobation and examples for the use of