

INTRODUCTION.

THIS little work, by the Rev. R. C. Horner, B.O., which I have great pleasure in introducing to the public, treats of a subject of vital importance to public speakers. The intimate relation of the general health to the tone of the voice is well known. All have observed that in disease or in old age and physical decay, the voice loses its full, round tone and grows weak, thin, and husky. But it is not so well understood that the proper exercise of the voice is one of the very best means of regaining health. Of course we cannot represent elocutionary exercises as a cure-all. But we know that a daily judicious exercise of the voice will be of inestimable benefit in diseases of the throat, in weakness of the lungs, in depression of the nervous system, and in many cases of dyspepsia. These, either separately or in combination, are, perhaps, the four most fatal enemies of the preacher of the gospel, and very frequently the sore throat is but the bulletin board on which is announced a disordered state of the stomach, a relaxed nervous system, or incipient consumption.