

and singers are generally anxious to co-operate with the practitioner, and have considerable control over the vocal organs. In the case of singers, extreme relaxation of the velum and uvula, or, as perhaps describes it better, paresis of the velum, together with a relaxed, pallid, almost oedematous look of the part, is a more serious matter as regards the voice than has been generally recognized even by specialists. Allow me to illustrate that by a case I have at present under treatment. Mr. —, a young man following a confining occupation during the day, used the vocal organs excessively during the evening; for many months he sang almost every night, kept very late hours, and indulged beside in various kinds of dissipation. At length he almost lost his voice, and was obliged to desist from singing. For months after his vocal break-down, he felt a distressing aching in the throat after using the voice, even in conversation for a few minutes; and all attempts at singing produced an aggravation of this feeling amounting to actual pain. He has had severe naso-pharyngeal catarrh, and this, I have no doubt, hastened the failure in the larynx; the nasal thickening is considerable. His ordinary conversational tones betray weakness, and close attention discovers the nasal muffling. Upon placing the mirror *in situ*, and asking the patient to phonate, no special failure in the indaptation of the cords is visible, but as he ascends the scale in a singing voice, a certain degree of general weakness of the muscles controlling the cords is apparent; but this is not all, nor in his case the chief cause of his difficulty in voice production, for as he reaches the upper register it becomes apparent that the lagging velum is the chief factor in the difficulty, it failing to rise sufficiently, and, in addition, is too bulky on account of the paresis, and thus spoils the shape of the sounding chamber. What is the prognosis? With reformed habits and appropriate continued treatment, the larynx will regain in all probability most of its lost power, though the muscles are possibly somewhat atrophied. There will be likelihood of relapses, especially as the case is complicated with naso-pharyngeal catarrh. With regard to purity of tone and perfection of resonance in certain notes, less may be expected, as he is not likely to