

DON'T attack a passage at too great speed. On the contrary, great deliberation is necessary. One sixteenth note per second, counting two to each, is about the proper rate of speed. This may be quickened gradually, until the limit of clear execution is reached. Bear in mind that slow, very slow, practice is the secret of good pianoforte playing.

DON'T begin your slow practice with a weak, irresolute touch. The fingers should be raised as high as possible, and the keys struck with crisp firmness and precision ; but without any feeling of heavy pressure, stiffness or bearing heavily upon the hand.

DON'T imagine that this method is to be used in rapid practice. This is a gymnastic exercise intended to strengthen the lifting and striking muscles of the fingers. In rapid passages the fingers are not raised more than is necessary for the clear enunciation of each note. Let the wrist and hand be loose.

DON'T practise even finger exercises and scales without accent or rhythm. Play everything *in time*, with different rhythms, and with varying degrees of loudness.