

SECTION I.

CHAPTER I.

The Organs of Speech.

1. An extensive knowledge of the vocal organization is not necessary to the study of delivery or of music; but as the names of the vocal organs are often used, and their action and position are frequently referred to in all treatises on vocal culture, a very brief view of their structures will aid the lessons of the teacher and the studies of the pupil.

2. The chest is the seat of the vocal organs. It consists of a bony framework connected by elastic muscles. This framework is formed by the breastbone, or **sternum**, placed perpendicularly in front of the breast, and the twelve pairs of ribs which are attached behind to twelve dorsal vertebræ, and the upper ones in front to the sternum, and the lower ones to each other. These ribs form the wall protecting the important organs of the chest; and, although bony in their structure, they are joined to the vertebræ, to the sternum and to each other by a soft and elastic hinge, so that they offer no impediment to the free action of the lungs. In fact, all judicious exercises of the arms and of the voice enlarge the cavity of the chest, and strengthen the outer walls as well as the internal organs.

3. These organs consist of the heart and the lungs, the lungs occupying the cavity of the chest on each side of the heart. They fill the chest cavity. They constitute the basis