

long as we remain so careless in regard to speech, so long for instance as children can pass through a college course speaking as they do and get degrees, we must have the conviction that musical and pleasing speech is not one of the subjects to which the people on this side of the Atlantic generally devote very much attention.

J. B. McCONNELL, M.D.—As to excessive dryness of the air in dwell-houses no doubt it is a very important hygienic defect and one which is largely accounted for the autumn catarrhal affections we meet with here. Undoubtedly people in cities suffer a great deal from improper heating, and coal gas is an important factor as well as the dryness, producing unwholesome condition. A great many houses are heated by coal stoves and some of them are often too large for the house and the draught key in the pipes is invariably kept closed so that a certain amount of gas is constantly escaping. The lighting of the houses with gas too is exceedingly injurious, it rapidly renders the air of a room unfit to breathe unless it is large and well ventilated. A great work would be done by this Society if it made an effort to educate the public as to the hygienic heating and lighting of their houses. It would be a good thing if we had a superintendent of buildings who would look after this sort of thing and see that houses were built properly from a hygienic point of view especially in the poorer districts. A vast amount of illness will be escaped from in cities where the masses live in houses where perfect hygienic conditions prevail.

G. A. BROWN, M.D.—I would like to ask Dr Starkey if he took into consideration the dust as an irritant; the air being rather dry these particles might all the more be floating around.

DR. BIRKETT.—This paper of Dr. Starkey's is, I think, full of a great deal of interesting information, to those who are especially interested in the diseases of the upper respiratory tract. The view which Dr. Starkey puts forwards as to being the possible cause of rhinitis, either in its acute or chronic form, is to me a very acceptable one. I have always held that many affections of the nose and throat are undoubtedly due to a deficient humidity of the atmosphere, and Dr. Starkey has in this paper proved, I think, pretty conclusively that his theory is correct, and speaking from a practical standpoint, I have had the opportunity of frequently applying the suggestion here made, and with good results; cases of acute and chronic rhino-pharyngitis, which have resisted the ordinary methods of treatment giving way by increasing the humidity of the atmosphere of the sleeping-room. I feel certain, therefore, that if we would direct our attention to this one point in particular, that many obstinate cases of this kind would show marked