

JULY 1, 1845.

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## SUPPLEMENT

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never occupies a thought. Is there one in a thousand, that has any conception of the mechanism by which voice is produced? Neither do they often care about the matter even when explained to them in detail. A complete anatomical description of the region of the throat, is not therefore of much importance in connection with Elocutionary Exercises. And hence no tedious pages about tissues or muscular fibres are introduced into this work, the authors being solicitous to teach the true method of using the vocal apparatus, so as to develop all its power with the greatest advantage, and without detriment to the individual. To accomplish an end so desirable, the Treatise before us opens with a brief consideration of the parts belonging strictly to the production of voice, followed by a critical analysis of the tonic and sub-tonic elements. Next, the Vocal diphthongal and consonantal elements are brought under severe examination. After these subjects are systematically disposed of, the labials, dentals, and palatic sounds are carefully dissected.

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“This is a treatise on Elocution, having much higher pretensions than the works usually published on the same subject. It is a more philosophical analysis of the nature of the art than what we are accustomed to in such books. Dr. Rush’s valuable principles in regard to the management of the voice are adhered to, and it is founded upon an accurate knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the organs of speech. In the outset we have descriptions of the larynx, illustrated by plates, which are followed by judicious and excellent instructions for correcting a vicious enunciation, and imparting easy and effective modes of reading. One could not follow the instructions here given without deriving great improvement from the book. We are glad to see this important art attracting so much attention. No people are in the habit of conversing and speaking with greater carelessness than our own, and none stand in greater need of a reform

in this respect. An easy and correct manner in conversation is a most charming and elegant attainment. Where there is so much public speaking as in this community, we are surprised that so little attention is paid to graceful delivery."

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*From a Teacher.*

"I have examined with more than ordinary interest, the treatise of Messrs. Murdoch and Russell on Vocal Culture in Elocution. The design of this treatise, as stated in the preface, 'is to furnish the groundwork of practical Elocution, and whatever explanations are needed for training the organs and the cultivation of the voice.' The plan adopted in the execution of this design is embraced in the following heads. '1. The study of the *vocal organs*.' '2. The functions of *breathing*.' '3. The practice of *enunciation*.' '4. The study of the various qualities of the voice.' '5. The study and practice of *force, stress, melody, pitch, slide, wave, monotone and semitone, time, quantity, movement, rhythm, metre, and pause*,—with a view to organic discipline and the command of the voice in *emphasis and expression*.' The exercises and examples, under each of these heads, are simple, practicable and appropriate, and well adapted to exercise and develop the various functions of the voice. To school teachers, professional men, and others, who desire to obtain the mastery over their own voices, and to be able to read and speak in an easy, graceful and effective manner, I do most cheerfully recommend this work, as the best of the kind within my knowledge.

Very respectfully, yours,

Cambridge, May 9th.

JOHN GOLDSBURY."

*From the New York Mirror.*

"Good manuals of the art of elocution have been too long wanted hitherto among our education books. The fault is less excusable in this country, since the first and only great treatise

on Nature's exquisitely perfect system of the speaking voice, is the production of an American, Dr. James Rush, a worthy son of the illustrious—*clarum et venerabile nomen*—Dr. Benjamin Rush. That work, published about twenty years ago, is now in its third edition. Spite of the cold neglect it has experienced from the big-wigs, thank heaven its principles have been imbibed by some of the fresher spirits of the land, and the art resulting from its philosophic exposition, we trust, will inevitably flourish. The invention of both the *thorough science*, and the incident art in our day furnishes us with useful forces, and with materials for refined pleasure, which we should not leave to the enjoyment of posterity alone.

“Messrs. Murdoch and Russell's book adds to the subject a good deal that is of decided practical value. The authors, experienced and accomplished practitioners in their capital vocation, know well what is wanted by the student to promote his acquirement of those noble and captivating vocal graces, so luminously set forth by Rush. Their rules and exercises for developing, increasing, and improving the voice in volume, quality, compass, and significance are excellent and practicable. What is said of the invigorating, health-inspiring effects of vocal training is truth well told, and well worth remembering. It may be added that practice in expressive reading and delivery, tends decidedly to the improvement of both taste and feeling.”

“We have not space to dwell as we would, upon the original and honest merits of Messrs. M. and R.'s volume. Those who have listened to the delightful readings and recitations (not spouting and mouthing) of Mr. Murdoch, and know the charm of his manly voice and natural manner, will need no assurance that his book partakes of all the good sense and cleverness which the treatment of its subject requires. Mr. Russell is also known as exhibiting very happily those beauties in his art, which the master can truly execute, and impart to the style of others.”

*From the Christian World.*

“We have taken great pleasure in referring, from time to time, to the efforts of Messrs. Murdoch and Russell for the introduction of a more perfect and practical elocution, than has been common, even amongst those who do most of the public speaking in this country, namely, Clergymen, Lawyers and Statesmen. The book before us is designed to assist in the cultivation of the voice, and to instruct in reading and declamation. Mr. Murdoch treats of the former, and Mr. Russell of the latter; both of them in a masterly manner. We wish that a very general attention could be attracted to this publication, unfolding so clearly, as it does, Mr. Murdoch's system of ‘Vocal Gymnastics,’ and for its obvious utility in developing the functions of

the human larynx, and in giving flexibility, beauty, facility, and permanent power to the voice; and its eminent effect both in the prevention and cure of the diseases to which public speakers are liable, give it a strong claim upon the attention of the teachers in our own schools and colleges, our youth, and all whose duties demand a frequent or great use of the voice.' ”

*From the Lowell Courier.*

“ This is a work of gentlemen who are well versed in the science upon which they write; and Mr. Murdoch unquestionably stands at the head of elocutionists in this country. This work, which contains about 250 pages, says all that can be said upon the subject of which it treats. The rules are laid down with great clearness, and the exercises are taken, with fine taste, from the best writers in the language. There is an appendix to the work by G. J. Webb Esq., Professor, Boston Academy of Music, containing directions for the cultivation of pure tone. We believe this to be a work of undoubted merit, and one which should be in the possession of gentlemen who are desirous of obtaining a full and perfect knowledge of the capacities of the human voice, and of the art of public speaking. The work is elegantly got up by the publishers, and it will be a valuable acquisition to a gentleman's library. We may refer to this work hereafter. It is for sale by Dixby & Whiting, Wentworth's building.”

*From the Portland Transcript.*

“ The title of this work explains in part its objects, which are, in the language of its authors, to furnish the *groundwork of practical elocution*, and whatever explanations are needed for the training of the organs, and the cultivation of the voice. It is in part a synopsis, with addition of examples and exercises, of Rush's celebrated ‘*Philosophy of the human voice*,’ and contains the practical methods of instruction, which the authors have adopted in their personal modes of teaching elocution. It is intended not only for young students, to assist them in the cultivation and development of the vocal organs, but also for those who have entered upon their professional career, affording them ‘the means of correcting erroneous habits in the use of the organs of speech, and of acquiring the command of an easy, healthful, and effective mode of managing the voice, in the art of reading or speaking in public.’—The plan pursued by the authors is, 1st. The study of the vocal organs. 2d. The function of breathing, as preliminary to the use of the voice. 3d. The practice of enunciation. 4th. The study of the various qualities of the voice. 5th. The study and practice of force, stress, melody, time, &c.—with a view to organic discipline and command of the voice in emphasis and expression.

“ Connected with the work is an appendix containing directions for the cultivation of pure tone, by G. J. Webb, of the Boston Academy of Music.

“ The design of the work seems to be admirably carried out. The authors have presented their subjects in a simple, perspicuous manner, and affording us an invaluable manual of practical instruction. The cultivation of the voice is too little attended to in our seminaries, and too indifferently regarded by our public men. As a graceful accomplishment it is worthy of the attention of all. The actual benefits, however, say our authors, ‘ arising from the practical application of Dr. Rush’s system, are equally felt in the exactness of intelligence, which it imparts, regarding all the expressive uses of the voice, and the force, freedom, and brilliancy of effect, which it gives to the vocal organs, whether in the utterance of expressive emotion, or of distinctive meaning addressed to the understanding, by the process of unimpassioned articulation.’ The benefits resulting to the young student from a practical training founded on the science laid down in this work are stated to be, a free and powerful exertion of the organs of respiration—a buoyancy of animal life, an exhilaration of spirits, and an energetic activity of the whole corporeal frame, all conducing to his moral and physical well being. Of still higher moment are the corresponding benefits conferred on adults by a vigorous course of vocal gymnastics. In many cases an impaired voice and health have been restored by a few weeks vocal training. We are aware we are but echoing the observations of the authors of the work, but these remarks seem grounded on such good sense, and their truth is so obvious, we do not hesitate to endorse them to their fullest extent. We strongly commend this volume to the reader, with the assurance that a thorough adherence to the discipline it inculcates will be productive of the most beneficial effects.”

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NEW WORK ON THE USE OF THE BLOWPIPE IN  
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“ THE constantly increasing interest which is felt in the sciences of chemistry and mineralogy in this country, as well as the rapid development of our mineral resources, seems to render it expedient that a treatise on the use of that indispensable instrument, the blowpipe, should be rendered accessible to the chemists, mineralogists and miners of this country. The edition of the standard work on the blowpipe, so recently published by Berzelius, seems to contain all that could be wished for on this subject, and the translator presumes, that, if the translation shall prove to have been properly executed, he will have rendered an acceptable service to science.”

*Extract from the Author's Preface.*

"The work which I now offer to the public treats of a subject which is of great importance to the practical chemist, the miner, and the mineralogist. It constitutes a system of chemical experiments performed in the dry way, as it was formerly called, but on so small a scale as to be almost microscopic, although the results are instantly attained and decisive. In all analytical investigations of inorganic substances, the use of the blowpipe is indispensable, since by its aid all the tests necessary to determine the nature of the substance operated on may be performed with so small a quantity of the material as to be hardly perceptible to the balance, while the presence of elements, which were neither expected or sought for, is often detected. The facility with which the constituents of minerals may be determined by the aid of the blowpipe, renders the use of this instrument indispensable to the miner, who often finds his operations disturbed by the occurrence of foreign substances in his ores, whose nature he rarely has sufficient skill or time to investigate thoroughly, but which he can readily detect by the use of the blowpipe, since the necessary degree of skill for such operations is so easily acquired. The mineralogist cannot dispense with the blowpipe; it is his only resource for deciding whether the conclusions which he has drawn from external characters, such as form, color, hardness, &c. are correct. For this reason, I have described the behavior of the greater portion of the known minerals before the blowpipe, selecting as far as possible, for this purpose, pure and well characterized specimens. I have also given the locality of the mineral described, in every case in which I supposed that a difference in localities might give rise to discrepancies in the results, in order that such variations might not be confounded with errors of observation, which it is almost impossible to entirely avoid in so long a course of experiments, all of which it was impracticable to repeat a sufficient number of times to ensure perfect accuracy.

"I hardly believe that any one will succeed in arranging minerals according to their behavior before the blowpipe, so that one who was acquainted with the use of this instrument, but who knew nothing of mineralogy, would be able to determine the names of minerals given him for examination.

"Finally, I have added a short description of the method of determining the nature of the stony concretions which form in the urinary passages. I have often been applied to by physicians for information on this subject; for this reason, I was forced to have recourse to the shortest methods, and I feel myself constrained to publish the results of my experience, since by their aid the physician may decide for himself, without the aid of a practical chemist."