

# Talks on Singing

## IV.—Good Diction a Requisite

By ENRICO CARUSO

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**G**OOD diction, or the art of pronouncing the words of a song or opera properly and intelligently, is a matter sadly neglected by many singers and indeed is not considered important by a large proportion of the audiences in this country, who do not understand foreign language, at any rate. And in an opera sung in a language unknown to most of the audience it is apparently unimportant whether the words are understood or not as long as there is a general knowledge of the plot, and the main consideration is, of course, the music.

Yet for those who are conversant with the language in which the opera is written or common an experience it is (in concert also) to be able, in spite of their linguistic knowledge, to understand but little of what is being sung, and what a drawback this really is! How many singers there are who seem to turn all their attention to the production of beautiful sounds and neglect in most cases the words that often are equally beautiful, or should be!

One hour a great deal just now about the advisability of giving operas in the native language, as it is done in France and Germany, and the idea would seem to have its advantages, as has already been demonstrated in some excellent performances of German, French and Italian operas in English. But of what avail would such a project be if, after all, one could not understand the words of his own language as they were sung?

The language might as well be Sanskrit or Chinese. In France the matter of diction is probably given the greatest attention, and singers at the Opera Comique, for instance, are noted for their pure and distinct enunciation of every syllable. Indeed, it is as much of a sine qua non there as good singing, if not more so, and the numerous subtleties in the French language are difficult enough to justify this special stress laid upon correct pronunciation.

It requires a very particular ability in a foreigner to attain the atmosphere of perfect French to any very high degree. Italian is generally considered an easier language to pronounce in song, as indeed it is, all the vowel sounds being full and sonorous and lacking that "covered" or mixed quality so often occurring in the French. Nevertheless Italian has its difficulties, particularly in the way of distinctly enunciating the double consonants and the proper division of the liaison, or combining of final vowels with initial vowels, and the correct amount of softness to be given to the letter C.

All this, of course, is from the standpoint of those to whom these languages are foreign.

Certainly no singer can be called a great artist unless his diction is good, for a beautiful voice alone will not make up for other deficiencies. A singer endowed with a small voice or even one of not very pleasing quality can give more pleasure than a singer possessing a big, impressive voice, but no diction.

Some people claim that a pronunciation too distinct or too much insisted upon spoils the real voice quality, but this should not be the case if the words are correctly and naturally brought out. Doubtless this impression has come from the fact that, particularly in France, many singers possessed of small voices must exaggerate their diction to obtain their effects. But if they did not have this perfect diction they often would have little else to recommend them. I would aver that a fine enunciation, far from interfering with it, aids the voice production, makes it softer and more concentrated, but diction should act rather as a frame for the voice and never replace it.

Each of the three languages, French, German and Italian, has its peculiar characteristics, which are of aid to the student in the general study of pronunciation, and it is well to have a knowledge of them all outside of the fact that an artist nowadays needs to have this knowledge in order not only to rank with the greatest, but to cope with the demands of an operatic career.

The Italian language in its very essence is rich in vowels and vowel combinations, from which comes principally the color in tones, and it has consequently been called the "language of song." Italians thus have naturally what it is so much trouble for singers of other nations to acquire—the numerous variations of vowel sounds.

French has the nasal sounds as its dominating characteristic and is very valuable in the cultivation of "nasal resonance."

As I said before, it is so easy to exaggerate and the voice is so apt to get too much "in the nose" that one has to be extremely careful in the use of the French "n" and "ng."

German is so full of consonants that one needs to have exceptional control of the tongue and lips to give their proper value.

English possesses the features of all the other languages—of course in less marked degree—resembling most per-

haps the German. The "th" is the most difficult sound to make effective in singing.

I have already spoken of the various phases of nervousness which an artist feels before the performance, but I wish to say here a word in regard to the practical significance of such nervousness. Artists who do not experience it are those who lack real genius. There are really two kinds of fear—that arising from a realization of the importance of what is to be done, the other from a lack of confidence in one's power. If a singer has no confidence in his performance he never is nervous, but full of assurance.

It is seldom that true artists are much troubled with nervousness after going upon the stage. Generally, as I have before mentioned, they are apt to be ill during the day of the performance, but once before the public they forget everything and are dominated only by the real love of their art and sustained by the knowledge of possessing a proper "method."

It is certain that with a good breath support even nervousness need not prevent one from singing well, although one may be actually suffering from trepidation. Yet we know that sometimes the greatest artists are prevented thus from doing their best work. The principle, however, remains unshaken that singing in a correct way is the greatest possible "bracer."

It is best to remain absolutely quiet and see no one on the day of the performance, so as not to be enervated by the effort of talking much, to say nothing of tiring the vocal chords. One prima donna of my acquaintance occupies herself in trimming hats on the days when she sings, believing that this provides a distraction and rests her nerves. It is just as well not to "pass through" the rote that is to be sung on the day of the appearing, but in the morning a few technical exercises to keep the voice in tune, as it were, are to be recommended. The great Italian singers of other days followed this rule, and it still holds good.

If the singer gives much of himself as well as of his voice to the public he should still hold his breathing supply in, so to speak, as he would guard the capital from which comes his income. Failure should be thus impossible if there is always a reserve to draw on.

So the more one sings with good breath support the more beautiful the voice becomes. On the other hand, those who sing haphazard sometimes begin the evening well, but deteriorate more and more as the performance advances and at the end are uttering mere raucous cries. They are like a man unable to swim who is in a deep river—their voices control them in place of their controlling their voices. They struggle vainly against obstacles, but are carried away by the food and are finally engulfed in the waters.

Many too ambitious students are their own worst enemies in the culture of their voices. Because they have a large vocal power they want to shout all the time in spite of the repeated admonitions of their masters, who beg them to sing piano. But they hear nothing except the noise they make themselves. Such headstrong ones will never make a career, even with the finest voices in the world. Their teachers should give up trying to make them listen to reason and devote their attention to those who merit it and want to study seriously. Singing as an art is usually not considered with enough earnestness. One should go to a singing master as one goes to a specialist for a consultation and follow with the greatest care his directions. If one does not have the same respect and confidence one places in a physician it must be because the singing master does not really merit it, and it would be much better to make a change at once.

In general it is better not to stick entirely to one teacher, for it is easy to get into a rut in this way, and some one else may have a quite different and more enlightening way of setting forth his ideas.

In taking up operatic work it is understood, of course, that the singer must have mastered most of the technical difficulties, so as not to be troubled with them when they are encountered in some aria.

It is a most excellent thing to secure an engagement in one of the small theaters abroad, where one may get a large experience before trying to effect an entrance into the bigger organizations of the great capitals.

But be sure that the voice is well placed before trying any of this sort of work and never attempt to sing a role above your powers in the earlier stage of your career, which otherwise may be compromised permanently.

One more bit of advice in closing. The best sort of lesson possible is to go often to the opera and note well the methods of the great artists. This personal example is worth more and is more illuminating than many precepts. This is not so much that any form of imitation may be attempted as to teach the would-be artist how to present at his best all those telling qualities with which he may be endowed. It is the best of schools.

### Tax Wealth, Not Food.

Philadelphia Press.  
The revision of the tariff year has a double task. The rates must be revised and \$100,000,000 of additional revenue must be raised.

The committee on ways and means has been wise in its tariff in leaving out the tax on coffee and imposing a tax on inheritance. It is better to tax wealth than to tax food.

European countries raise a large portion of their revenue by taxes on tea and coffee. England raises nearly half its revenue from duties by taxes on food. Sugar is dutiable in this country, but there is for this the sound reason that the duty protects home-grown sugar, now one-fifth of the whole, and fosters sugar in Cuba. Abolish the duty on sugar and the reduction in the Cuban product would advance the price by more than the reduction from the abolition of the duty.

The McKinley tariff, in spite of this, abolished the duty on sugar and its consumption increased with rapidity under the stimulus of cheap sugar. If it were not for its protection of the home sugar product and its effect on our insular neighbors there would be little to be said even for the duty on sugar.

New duties on food have no defense. They ought not to be imposed. Tax wealth instead of food.

### The Dewberry Industry in the Sand Hill Country.

Sanford Express.  
The dewberry industry in Moore and Lee counties is assuming proportions and promises to become one of the leading and most profitable industries of the two counties. Fruit growers about Cartage, Cameron and Southern Pines were the first to make the experiment in raising and shipping dewberries. They proved so profitable that fruit growers at Aberdeen, Jonesboro and Swan Station have entered the industry and will have many acres under cultivation this year. A stock company of High Point is preparing the land and will plant 30 acres in berries at Aberdeen. Since dewberries have been introduced on the northern markets, the demand for this palatable fruit has become great and all that can be raised are sold at good prices.

As a Top Notch Doer.  
Great deeds compel regard. The world crowns its doers. That's why the American people have crowned Dr. King's New Discovery the King of Throat and Lung Remedies. Every atom is a health force. It kills germs, and cures the grippe, coughs, colds, and croup, and soothes and soothes. Sore, inflamed bronchial tubes and lungs are cured and hemorrhages cease. Dr. Geo. More, Black Jack, N. C., writes "It cured me of lung trouble, pronounced hopeless by all doctors." 50c. \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Standard Drug Co.

President Elliott's Definition of a Liberal Education.  
The term liberal education has always been a very vague one, and as generally used, is merely a comparative term as distinguished from a limited education. But President Elliott has given this succinct and acceptable definition: "A knowledge of past and current events in the world's progress; power of expression; an intimate acquaintance with some part of the store of human knowledge, a clear conviction of how to discover the truth, and a development of the imagination."

Object to Strong Medicine.  
Many people object to taking the strong medicines usually prescribed by physicians for rheumatism. There is no need of internal treatment in any case of muscular or chronic rheumatism, and more than nine out of every ten cases of the disease are of one or the other of these varieties. When there is no fever and little (if any) swelling, you may know that it is only necessary to apply Chamberlain's Liniment freely to get quick relief. Try it. Not sale by all drug-gists.

LEFT ON HER DOORSTEP FOR THIS MOTHER  
Mrs. A. G. Tuson, of Livermore, Cal., writes: "I picked up from my doorstep one day a little book in which I soon became very much interested. My little girl of five years of age had been troubled for a long time with loss of appetite, extreme nervousness and undue fatigue. She was all run-down and in a very delicate condition. This little book was very comprehensively written, and told of the new method of extracting the medicinal elements of the cod's liver from the oil, eliminating the obnoxious oil which is so hard for children to take. 'Just the thing,' said I, 'for my little daughter,' and I immediately went for a bottle of Vinol. It helped her wonderfully. She has gained rapidly in flesh and strength, and she does not take cold half so easily. 'I am extremely grateful for the good it has done her, and I hope other mothers who have weak, delicate or ailing children will be benefited by my experience and just give Vinol a trial.'"

Vinol is sold in Asheboro by ASHEBORO DRUG CO.

### A WOMAN'S ESSAY ON MAN.

Evidently Man is a Strange Animal.

A boy can sit still on a sled six inches square, tied to a sleigh moving eight miles an hour but could not sit still on a sofa five minutes for a dollar. A man will sit on an inch edge of a board and talk politics for three hours; put him in a church pew for 40 minutes he gets nervous, twists and turns, and goes to sleep. A man will pouch his cheeks with filthy tobacco, juice runs down his chin, feels good, but a hair in the butter kills him. He stays out till midnight, wife don't know where he is, comes home when he pleases, but if a meal is not ready just on time, pouts, frowns and says unpretty things. Evidently man is a strange animal. Gets full, beastly drunk, imagines he's rich, a great man, bets on the losing horse, goes broke, quarrels, fights, lands in jail, eyes dressed for Easter, face freckled and morals depraved, yet he is "Lord of all creation and monarch of all he surveys." Strange animal this man.—Ex

### Montgomery News.

From The Montgonian.  
The list takers for Montgomery county for 1909 are as follows:  
Troy—J. F. Saunders.  
Pee Dee—R. A. Matheson.  
Mt. Gilead—Charles Stanback, Cheeks Creek—J. L. Brookshire, Rocky Springs—T. B. Bush, Hollingsworth—A. B. McCaskill, Hill—J. L. Stuart, Little River—G. H. Cornelison, Ophi—N. W. Davis, Eldorado—G. B. Coggin, Uwharrie—J. C. Hamilton.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan died at her home in the Spess section a few days ago. She was 79 years old on the day of her death and was a good woman. She was the mother of our townsman, D. F. Morgan.

Earl Thayer died on March 28th in New Mexico. He was a son of N. M. Thayer, of Eldorado. He was about 21 years old and a bright young man. He was buried April 6th at Macedonia, near Eldorado. Funeral services were conducted by the pastor. He had left home just 15 months ago. This is the second death that has occurred in Mr. Thayer's family this year.

The Commissioners of Montgomery county have appointed the following persons a Board of Trustees for each township in the county under the new road law:  
Troy—D. D. Bruton, W. D. Allen, Leach Russell.

Uwharrie—T. L. Mullinix, J. C. Hamilton, J. T. Morr s.  
Pee Dee—W. L. Andrews, B. L. Moore, C. W. Wooley.  
Mt. Gilead—J. A. Ingram, J. B. Hurley, H. G. Scarborough.  
Cheeks Creek—J. C. Thompson, D. J. Poole, W. H. Usery.  
Rocky Springs—Miles Ruah, J. E. Broadway, C. W. Poole.  
Hollingsworth—Atlas McLeod, H. C. Richardson, O. C. Parsons.  
Hill—W. G. Stuart, J. F. Deaton, J. F. Hurley.  
Little River—G. H. Cornelison, J. C. McIntosh, B. F. Reynolds.  
Op—H. A. Davis, W. P. Harley, J. W. Warner.

Eldorado—J. A. Kirk, J. A. Gamble, B. E. Morris.

### Tax Listers for Davidson County.

The board of county commissioners held the regular session Monday and Tuesday. The usual routine business was transacted and the tax listers for the various townships were named. For the first time in a decade the listers are Republicans. They are as follows:

Abbotts Creek—J. B. Motzinger.  
Arcadia—J. P. Orouh.  
Alleghany—E. S. Varner.  
Bacon—D. I. Wilson.  
Cotton Grove—W. C. Roach.  
Conrad Hill—W. F. Briles.  
Emmons—U. L. Garner.  
Hampton—Aaron Teah.  
Healing Springs—Walter Feezor.  
Jackson Hill—J. L. Thompson.  
Lexington—J. A. Landsay.  
Midway—A. P. Hartman.  
Reedy Creek—J. S. Hege.  
Silver Hill—Z. B. Tussey.  
Thomasville—D. P. White.  
Tyro—H. C. Fritts.  
Yadkin College—Ed. L. Greene.  
On the first Monday in May these listers will meet in joint session with the county commissioners.

### "One Touch of Nature Moves the Wheel (Whole World Kts.)"

When a rooster finds a big fat worm he calls all the hens in the farm yard to come and share it. A similar trait of human nature is to be observed when a man discovers something exceptionally good—he wants all his friends and neighbors to share the benefit of his discovery. This is the touch of nature that makes the whole world kin. This explains why people who have been cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy write letters to the manufacturers for publication, that others similarly ailing may also use it and obtain relief. Behind every one of these letters is a warm-hearted wish of the writer to be of use to someone else. This remedy is for sale by all druggists.

CASTORIA.  
The Kid in Sun Dress Bought  
By the  
Signature of  
Chas. H. Hitchcock

### "The Hand That Rocks The Cradle"

"The hand that rock the cradle is the hand that rules the world." The high protectionists in Congress have offered a bold and defiant challenge to this claim. What are the American women going to do about it? Are they going to make use of the influence which they possess as mothers and wives, daughters and sisters, and take up the gage thrown down by the tariff extremists, or do they propose to submit meekly to the proposition to add a tax to gloves and stockings and to other commodities of essential consumption which it is proposed to revise upwards?

Bear in mind that what the women are going to have to say about the Payne tariff bill is, early or late, going to have a tremendous lot to do about that piece of legislation. If the lawmakers in Congress are not taking this into consideration it only shows that they are blind and deaf to the lessons of the history.

"The women do the shopping and keep the prices," said speaker Tom Reed, in referring to the Democratic landslide that followed the enactment of the McKinley bill. "They have the keenest sense for increased cost. In every store they heard the clerks explain how this article and that could not be sold hereafter at the former price because of the McKinley bill. They went home and told their husbands and their fathers, and their stories had a tremendous effect at the ballot box."

Now, women don't change much about things that affect them collectively and individually. They are as much interested now in making a dollar go as far as they can as they were after the McKinley bill was passed and there are a lot more of them now than there were then. Women are by no means helpless against the kind of injury they suffer through unfair prices for what they use, even if they are without the ballot. If the champions of the Glove and Hosiery trusts in Congress think the women of this country can't find a way to make their power felt at the polls, these lawmakers are guilty of yet greater stupidity than they at tribute to the women who they think will submit to gratuitous imposition without a protest.—Exchange.

Personal experience with a tube of Manzanita File Remedy will convince you it is immediate relief for all forms of Piles. Can be applied directly to the effected parts, reducing inflammation swelling and itching. Guaranteed. Price 50c. Simpson Drug Store.

Senator Simmons takes this view on the tariff question:—"That the Democratic pledge of a tariff for revenue only was made with reference to the whole tariff system and that therefore it does not apply to any individual article."

Permanently relieves constipation and indigestion. Regulates the bowels, builds up waste tissue. Makes pure blood. You grow strong, healthy and robust. Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea, the safest, nicest Spring tonic. 35 cents. Asheboro Drug Co.

NOTICE.  
Having qualified as administratrix on the estate of J. A. Hayes, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are notified to present them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before the 30th day of April, 1910, and all persons owing said estate will come forward and make immediate settlement.  
This 29th day of March, 1909.  
NETTIE HAYES, Admrx.

Do not neglect to get a pair of our eight-inch tension spring scissors. Send in your remittance today.

### Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.

How To Find Out.

Fill a bottle or common glass with your water and let it stand twenty-four hours; a brick dust sediment, or settling, stringy or milky appearance often indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys; too frequent desire to pass it or pain in the back are also symptoms that tell you the kidneys and bladder are out of order and need attention.

What To Do.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills almost every wish in correcting rheumatism, pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. Corrects inability to hold water and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to go often through the day, and to get up many times during the night. The mild and immediate effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest because of its remarkable health restoring properties. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar bottles. You may have a sample bottle sent free by mail. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Mention this paper and remember the name, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.



Will Wear Longer Than Any Other.

We are making a display of a new Spring line of OXFORDS For Men, Women and Children.

Black, Tan and Ox Blood, in Vici-Kid, Patent and Gun Metal Leathers. Wear them for Style, Comfort and Economy.

W. J. MILLER, Asheboro, N. C.

Dr. S. A. HENLEY, Physician and Surgeon ASHEBORO N. C.

## Jersey Calves at Auction.

Great Overflow Sale of High-bred Jersey Males and Females at Auction, Greensboro, N. C., May 4th, 1909.

My barns are now full of Jersey cows and I am for the first time offering heifers from the bull Trevarth's General; He by General Marigold out of Trevarth's Puritan; General Marigold by Major Polo out of Mary Ida-gold, test 23 lbs. of butter in 7 days as a three year old. Major Polo by Glynlln Boy out of Massey Polo the butter queen of the Jersey race, milked in 7 days 354-lbs. of milk that made 30 lbs. 6 1-2 oz. of butter.

Cows sired by this famous bull are now milking in my herd and every one are No. 1 cows.

Sale begins at 1 o'clock p. m. Bids by mail will be placed in the hands of competent man and treated with the utmost fairness.

For particulars address,

JOHN A. YOUNG, Greensboro, N. C.