

APPENDIX.

HINTS FOR DISTINCT READING AND SPEAKING.

Good reading and speaking depend largely upon distinct articulation. It is not lack of a strong voice which prevents most readers and speakers from being understood; it is rather lack of articulation. Indistinct articulation comes especially from rapidity, from the lessening in the volume of the voice, and from the difficulty of sounds.

RAPIDITY.

1. **Letters.** — Initial letters do not receive their full value. The voice hurries over letters to stress the accented syllable. At times there seems to be a tendency to assimilate a vowel to a succeeding vowel. Distinguish between *accept* and *except*, *accede* and *exceed*, *access* and *excess*. Don't say *opprore*, *ocording*, *account*, *oppoint* for *approve*, *according*, *account*, *appoint*. Don't say *ecknowledge* for *acknowledge*, *imployment* for *employment*, *idmit* for *admit*, or *privilige* for *privilege*. Don't drop or transpose letters, omitting the first "r" in *February* and *secretary* or saying *hunderd* for *hundred*, *perscribe* for *prescribe*.

2. **Syllables.** — The syllables which especially suffer from rapidity of articulation are those containing "l," "n," and "r." Don't say *principlly* for *principally*, *actuly* for *actually*, *valuble* for *valuable*, *compny* for *company*;

histry, memry, victry for the full words. Distinguish *ru-in* and *rune*, *re-al* and *reel*, *ide-al* and *deal*.

3. **Words.** — Words at the beginning of sentences and of phrases, and small words of frequent occurrence are often joined with neighboring words and so made indistinct. *What's the matter* should not be *'Smatter*; nor should *wuz, fur, frum, becuz* take the place of *was, for, from, because*.

LESSENING OF VOLUME.

1. Final letters and syllables in words and final words in sentences are frequently lost. Pronounce the final "g" in all words ending in "ing," and the final letters in *kept, ask, give*; not *kep me, assed me, gimme* or *gay me* for *give me, gave me*. *Window* should not be called *windah*; so also for *yellow, fellow, follow*.

2. Don't go to the other extreme and emphasize last syllables. Final vowels are often obscured, but the final syllable should be distinct. Touch the vowel lightly, but give it its proper sound. Watch the final syllables in *obedience, Jerusalem, discipline, anthem, college*, and do not pronounce them as if spelled with the vowel "u."

DIFFICULTY OF SOUNDS.

1. The letter "r" causes much trouble. The letter is formed by bringing the tip of the tongue close to the palate. Many allow the tongue to lie flat and say *ah* for *ar*. The letter is often dropped at the end of a word or syllable; as *bahbeh, fahmeh, fatheh* for *barber, farmer, father*; *doah* for *door*. On the other hand, an "r" sound is often added to a final broad "a," especially if a

vowel begins the next word. The one who says *deah* for *dear* will say *idear* for *idea*. "No one saw a flaw in the law" is not to be read, "No one sawr a flawr in the lawr."

2. Insert a "y" sound before "u" in all syllables except those containing "r" or "l." Pronounce *dyuke*, not *juke*, for *duke*; and do not let *institute* or *destitute* end in a *toot*. A *tutor* differs from a *tooter*. *New* and *dew* are not pronounced *noo* and *do*.

3. The diphthong "au" found in *our*, *brown*, *ought*, *naught* has local varieties. In some sections *our* is pronounced *ur*; *brown* is pronounced *bran* or drawled with a distinct nasal tone; *sought* is sounded *sot* and *wrought* becomes *rot*.

4. Syllables with "l" and "r" are pronounced as if the vowel were "u." For *terrible America*, many say *turrible Ammurica*; for *willing self* they say *wulling sulf*.

5. The difficult combination causes the omission of "d" in *secondly* and *thirdly*, the "t" in *lastly*, *mostly*, *correctly*, the first "n" in *government*; the second "b" in *probably*; the "g" in *strength*.

6. The letter "t" is sometimes softened to "d," but a *writer* is not a *rider*; *matter* is not *madder*; *better* is not *bedder*.

7. The words *any* and *many* rime with *penny*; *been* with *sin*. Say *poetry*, not *poutry* or *potry*. The word *grievous*, has only one "i" and does not rime with *devi-ous*. *Catch* the ball; do not *ketch* it. Rime *again* with *amen*; *apparent* with *pay rent*. Read "a *genuine Italian* on the *athletic team* is *often something* to be proud off," and be careful to pronounce correctly the words in italics.