

**VOCAL  
PHYSIOLOGY. A  
PRACTICAL TREATISE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649730155

Vocal Physiology. A Practical Treatise by Chas. Alex. Guilmette

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Cover @ 2017

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VOCAL PHYSIOLOGY.

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A PRACTICAL TREATISE.

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BY

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Don Pedro II., Emperor of the Brazil and Rio de Janeiro.*

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CONCORD, N. H.:  
CHARLES C. PEARSON.  
1877.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

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I first conceived the idea of the publication of a work on vocal physiology, in the year 1844, when it was my good fortune to meet M. Arnaud, at that time first tenor at the French Opera, New Orleans, the first person from whom I obtained thorough practical instruction in lyrical declamation. As the result of that instruction, I felt myself competent to pursue the subject unaided, and commenced the examination of the most noted writers on vocal physiology. I read them carefully; rejected such fallacies as I found inconsistent with modern anatomy and physiology; applied what I had gleaned from all sources to myself and others, until I had deduced what I believed to be the fundamental principles of the subject.

In 1860, while delivering a course of lectures at Cooper Institute, New York, my exercises on respiration attracted the attention of Rev. Edward Winthrop, because of their originality; and at his request permission was given him to publish them in catechismal form. Two thousand copies were sold within thirty days of the date of publication.

It was my intention to have supplemented this work with the present treatise within a year; but professional duties, and later, impaired health, have prevented rapid progress. During all this time I have pursued these investigations, candidly

TO THE PUBLIC.

testing my own theory and those of others, desiring to remove all excrescences and arrive at the simple facts, unalloyed.

Recently, I have been earnestly requested by friends interested in the subject, and urged by evident public requirement, to prepare this work. It has been written at such intervals of leisure as I chanced to obtain from arduous professional labor, and has not been subjected to that careful criticism and revision which such a work imperatively demands. It was not given to the press until late, and its publication has necessarily been hurried, in order that it might be issued before a certain date. I am, also, aware that foreign idioms crept unconsciously into the work, which, with more ample time, would have been revised by the author. But, such as it is, I present it to the public, bespeaking for it generous criticism in these particulars. Should it meet with favor, I shall endeavor, in future editions, to make it more complete in many respects, and less open to criticism in purely technical details.

CHARLES A. GUILMETTE.

CONCORD, N. H., January 29, 1877.

## INTRODUCTION

BY THE

REV. EDWARD WINTHROP, A. M.

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### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RHETORICAL ART.

Among the illustrious men of Europe who have written, during the nineteenth century, on the mechanism and diseases of the human voice, are Colombat De L'Isère, founder of the Orthophonic Institute at Paris, and François Bennati, Physician of the Italian Theatre in that city.\* Each of these

\* Bennati was born at Mantua, in 1789, and died at Paris on the 10th of March, 1834. See the *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*. Paris, 1855. Tome Cinquième, p. 387, Art. *Bennati*.

For biographical sketches of *Colombat De L'Isère* see the *New American Cyclopædia*, published by D. Appleton & Co.,



great men gained a prize for the labor of his brain, and each was eminently successful in the practice of his profession. Bennati, himself a vocalist as well as a physiologist, restored the voice to its healthy functions in many instances of *aphonia*, and other maladies;\* and Colombat De L'Isère from November, 1827, to April, 1840, out of six hundred and eighty-three cases of all sorts of defects of speech, gave permanent relief in five hundred and twenty-four.†

New-York, 1859. Vol. 5, p. 485: also Pierer's *Universal Lexikon*, (a work in the German language,) Altenburg, 1830. Vol. 4, p. 171. Art. Colombat De L'Isère.

These books containing the notices of Colombat and Bennati, as above, will be found in the New-York Mercantile Library. There is another notice of Colombat De L'Isère in the *Conversations-Lexikon* (German) Leipzig, 1852. Vol. 4, p. 296.

\* See Bennati's "*Recherches Sur Les Maladies qui affectent les organes de la voix humaine.*" Pp. 59-112. Paris, 1832.

† See the tabular statement annexed to the second volume of Colombat De L'Isère's great work: "*Traité de tous les vices de la parole, et en particulier du bégaiement, ou Recherches*

In England there have been various works on the vocal organs, and their treatment, both in health and disease. It will be sufficient to enumerate Gardiner's Music of Nature, Vandenhoff's Elocution, Bishop on the Impediments of Speech, Urling on Vocal Gymnastics, Hunt on Stammering, and on the Philosophy of the Voice, etc., Charles W. Smith's pamphlet on "Reading, Speaking, and Action," Dr. Mackness on "*Dysphonia Clericorum*,"\* and the chapters on Clergymen's sore throat, in Dr. Fenwick on "the causes and prevention of diseases."

In our own country we have had Rush, and Russell, and Barber, and Bronson, and Comstock, and Sargent, and Mandeville, and others, in whose works, as in those published

*theoriques et pratiques sur l'Orthophonie.*" Troisième Edition. Paris, 1840.

The author of the above work received from the Royal Academy of Sciences, a prize of five thousand francs.

\* Clergymen's Difficulty of Voice.

in England and France, will be found much valuable information respecting the human voice.

But after all that has been done, the field is not yet exhausted. Vocal diseases seem of late to have rapidly increased; and both in public and private life many are those whose comfort and usefulness have been more or less impaired by these insidious maladies.

In the city of New-York, Dr. Charles Alexander Guilmette has gained an enviable celebrity, not only by his great theoretical knowledge of the voice, but also by the application of that knowledge to the development of the respiratory and vocal mechanisms. Second to none as a professional singer, and remarkably skillful in the treatment of vocal diseases, he has already succeeded in awakening, to a considerable extent, the attention of the public to the physiological cultivation of organic elocution.