

**THE HYGIENE OF THE VOCAL
ORGANS; A
PRACTICAL HANDBOOK
FOR SINGERS AND SPEAKERS**

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The hygiene of the vocal organs; a practical handbook for singers and speakers by Sir Morell Mackenzie

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SIR MORELL MACKENZIE

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M. 7

THE HYGIENE
OF
THE VOCAL ORGANS.

A Practical Handbook
FOR
SINGERS AND SPEAKERS.

BY
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FOURTH EDITION

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AND NEW YORK.
1887.

“ La voix est un son humain que rien d'inanimé ne saurait parfaitement contrefaire. Elle a une autorité et une propriété d'insinuation qui manquent à l'écriture. Ce n'est pas seulement de l'air, c'est de l'air modulé par nous, imprégné de notre chaleur, et comme enveloppé par la vapeur de notre atmosphère, dont quelque émanation l'accompagne et qui lui donne une certaine configuration et de certaines vertus propres à agir sur l'esprit.”—**JOUBERT.**

“ Præterradit enim vox fauceis sæpe facitque
Asperiora foras gradiens arteria clamor.
Quippe per angustum turba majore coorta
Ire foras ubi cœperunt primordia vocum,
Scilicet expletis quoque janua raditur oris
Rauca viis, et iter lædit quâ vox it in auras.”

LUCRETIVS, lib. iv. 532-7.

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

THE demand for this little work continues to be so great that another edition is already called for. The alterations are confined to a few corrections in the Index.

April 1887.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

SIX weeks after the publication of the second edition of this volume a third was called for, so that it would not appear that much alteration or addition was required. Nevertheless I have thought it desirable to make a few slight changes, the principal of which consist in placing the anatomy of the vocal organs and the chapter on the conflicting views on the falsetto register each in a separate appendix at the end of the volume. The large demand for this little work has also led me to add an index, which I trust will be found useful.

19, HARLEY STREET,
February, 1887.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN issuing a second edition of this handbook the Author cannot refrain from expressing his gratification at the favourable reception which it has met with from those best qualified to judge. It is a source of legitimate pleasure to him to find his humble efforts so favourably acknowledged by the press, and by public and private teachers.

The present edition is substantially a reprint of the first. One or two verbal errors have been corrected, and a few slight additions have been made here and there, but there is no material alteration in the text.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THERE are already so many books on the voice that some wonder may not unreasonably be felt that I should have seen fit to add to the number. By way of explanation I may be allowed to direct the reader's attention to the exact nature and scope of my little work. I have no pretension to speak with authority as a musician or even as a physiologist, and in the following pages I do not profess either to teach singing or elocution, or to throw new light on the obscurer problems of voice-production. Matters belonging to either of these provinces are dealt with only in their relation to the well-being and functional efficiency of the vocal organs. That is a subject on which I may with less presumption claim a hearing. For a quarter of a century I have been engaged in ministering to diseased throats, and every singer or actor of note in this country, with hardly an exception, has at one time or other come under my hands. I have thus had very unusual opportunities of studying

the conditions which affect the voice for good or for evil, and my own observation has been assisted and supplemented by the personal experience of vocalists of world-wide celebrity. How I have used my advantages my readers must judge. I wish it, however, to be clearly understood that my point of view is throughout that of the practical physician. I have, therefore, avoided unnecessary technical details, and striven to make the book a really useful guide to those who have to use the voice in the pulpit or in the rostrum, on the stage or in the political arena.

June, 1886.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY	1

CHAPTER II.

THE VOICE	6
---------------------	---

Physiology of the Vocal Organs, 6—The Laryngoscope, 10—What it shows, 13—Photography of the Larynx, 19—Vibration, 21—Sound, 22—The Larynx as a Musical Instrument, 22—Reeds,—their Nature and Varieties, 22—Timbre, 24.

CHAPTER III.

THE SINGING VOICE	28
-----------------------------	----

Difference between Speech and Song, 28—Compass of the Voice, 29—"Breaking" of the Voice, 30—Registers of the Voice, 32—Mechanism of the Registers, 34—Observations on Singers, 38.