HINTS ON TEACHING AND LECTURING ON PHONOGRAPHY WITH NOTES ON SHORTHAND ANCIENT AND MODERN, MUSIC THE CONNECTION OF PHONOGRAPHY WITH THE PENNY POST, ETC. Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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### **HENRY PITMAN**

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## HINTS ON TEACHING

AND LECTURING ON

## **PHONOGRAPHY**

WITH NOTES ON

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BY HENRY PITMAN.

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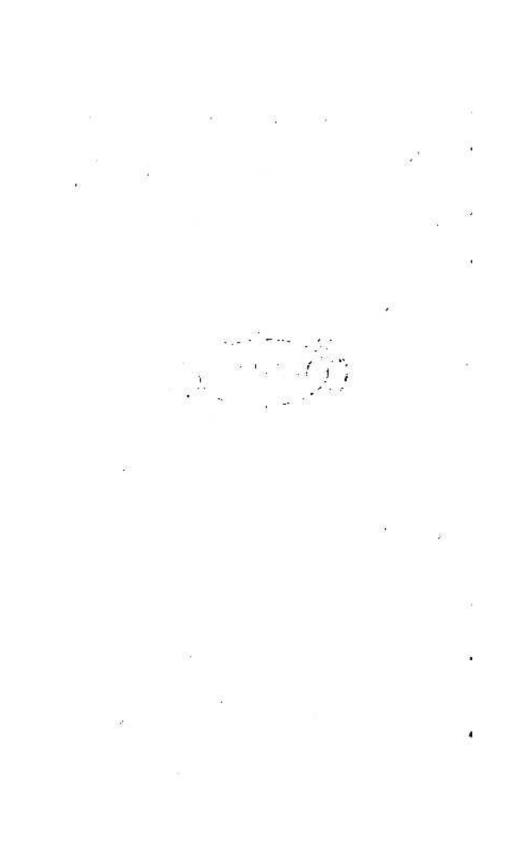
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# HINTS ON TEACHING & LECTURING ON PHONOGRAPHY.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

ORTY-EIGHT years have elapsed since the first edition of Phonography was published. The art has "made its mark" wpon the present age, yet not a hundredth part of the population are practically acquainted with it. What is needed to make Phonography more widely known? I reply, that which gave the art its first impetus, namely, public and private free lectures, followed by classes. There are thousands of young men of a literary turn of mind who know Phonography and who are qualified to explain it. Why should not a hundred of them at once resolve to do their best in this direction?

I believe the spread of Phonography is the surest and shortest way to the adoption of phonetic printing. Teach the rising generation to "write by sound," and the next generation will be prepared to print by sound. With the view of inducing my young phonographic friends to let their light shine for the benefit of their fellow creatures, I commence these familiar and discursive Hints upon Lecturing. I address myself chiefly to

the members of the Phonetic Society, who are in a measure pledged to do all they can to extend a knowledge of an art which has been of such great service to themselves. One of the engagements which members of the Phonetic Society take upon themselves is, to extend Phonography by "recommending it on every suitable occasion, by the formation of classes, and by the free correction of postal exercises." I think every member of the Phonetic Society should be willing, and by repeated efforts become able, to give lectures on Phonography and the Spelling Reform. The amount of work done by the 2,700 members of the Society is small compared with what might be accomplished. Phonographers join the Society in order to be of service in . spreading Phonography. Professional shorthand writers and reporters, as a rule, have neither time nor inclination to work in this way. In the early history of Phonography almost everyone who learned it was an enthusiastic propagandist by tongue and pen. This arose from the love of truth and a desire to be useful.

I advise my young readers to make an attempt at lecturing on Phonography, or at least to read an essay upon it to some Mutual Improvement Society, for their own sake as well as for the good of others. Lecturing is profitable for self-culture, for recreation, and for health. Many phonographers may not have time to teach classes, though it is desirable that every explanation of the art should be followed by a class. Every lucid and earnest explanation of the system will be more or less fruitful of converts, and the instruction books are so cheap and explicit that no one need despair of selftuition. Some phonographers may think that on this account lectures are not needed. Experience, however, teaches that the popular exemplification of Phonography is a necessary, pleasant, and helpful introduction to its study. What appears so simple to us is often a perplexing problem to the uninitiated. One of the rewards

of lecturing is the pleasure of explaining the simplicity, brevity and philosophy of the system, and to witness the delight of an audience as they follow your exposition.

I have said that lecturing promotes self-culture. No doubt you have read Professor Blackie's treatise upon this subject, published in Phonography; if not, buy it, read it, and copy it.

Of course a certain training is necessary to fit one for lecturing. I was fortunate in having several years' training, from the age of ten to twenty, with my brothers Isaac, Joseph, and Benn, in teaching Phonography before I attempted to address a public audience. I have a vivid recollection of the mental anxiety I suffered before I could screw my courage to the speaking point. It was at a phonographic conversazione in the town of Kilmarnock about the year 1845, when Mr Lang, of beloved memory, now in Australia, was the chairman. I took the advice of my brother Bean and wrote out my short speech several times in Phonography until it was committed to memory. This gave me a certain amount of confidence, and although I spoke in something like a "maze," Mr Lang encouraged me by saying that I had made a fair beginning. It was some years before I overcame an unpleasant treprdation at facing an audience. I have heard Mr Bright say that to this day he experiences a nervous responsibility before addressing a large audience, and a sense of relief when the address is over. There is a responsibility in calling a number of people together, whom you are pledged to meet punctually at the time advertised, and to provide them with something worth coming for. You therefore try to do your best, and that is the basis of self-culture. As the saying is, you have to "mind your p'z and q'z." A mispronunciation or an ungrammatical phrase might spoil all. Lecturing is also recreation and enjoyment. It combines the double pleasure of composition and delivery. It is a healthy exercise, expanding the chest.