VOICE CULTURE.

An Arabian Recipe For Improving the Quality of the Voice.

"I do not remember your name, but I have never forgotten the sound of your voice," said one woman to another when they met recently after a casual meeting on a summer vacation. The voice in question was very soft and very lovely, with a peculiarly pleasing intonation, which made it quite distinctive.

Of course every one knows that lovely women ought to have lovely voices, but not every one knows that women can do very, very much to improve the voice and that oftentimes its harshness or nasal sound is due to carelessness.

Sarah Bernhardt's wonderful voice is one of the secrets of her phenomenal success. She tells in her memories of a visit to the palace of the beautiful Empress Eugenie and the shock it gave her when that wonderfully beautiful woman spoke. "That rough, hard voice coming from that brilliant woman gave me a shock," she writes. "From that moment I felt ill at ease with her in spite of her graciousness and kindness."

The teachers in some of the modern religious schools hold that the voice is an indication of the soul. Unquestionably it is influenced by thought, for high minded folk who think deeply and beautifully have well modulated and sonorous voices with a pleasing sound.

It is absurd to strain our voices as we do in cities by talking against so much noise. No wonder the average voice is shrill, hard, nasal and unpleasant. But the greatest injury done the voice is through improper breathing, and this again affects the entire health. Paying attention to this, therefore, with the thought of improving the voice, will benefit the entire system. It is a good plan to listen carefully to voices about you and critically at your own, practicing deep and regular breathing and such sounds as are round and full and deep. It is rarely necessary to talk as loud as the average woman does, and one should learn not to talk at all in the streets where there is such a rush and roar of noise. Learn to enunciate clearly and distinctly, a thing which few women do. Do not mumble your words or "swallow" them, but say them precisely and clearly.

The nasal sound so often noticeable in women's voices is due to adenoids, which are a growth of tissue back of the nose, preventing a full, free circulation of air through the nostrils and cause, in addition to the harm to the voice, ear and throat, troubles in numbers of ways. These growths ought to be removed. In time the nasal and throat spray will come to be as esteemed an article on the dressing table as the tooth wash and brush are now.

Lemon juice and sugar will clear the voice. Singers often eat an apple just before singing, as this helps also to clear the voice.

SMALL ECONOMIES.

A Smart String Box of Pressed Brass For Library Table.

None of the inconsistencies of woman are more amusing than her inconsistent economies.

Some women who ride in their carriages still cut up old bedspreads to make wash cloths, and others who can afford to drive automobiles don't have cream for their oatmeal in the morning. To be sure, the day of making

TWINE BOX WITH SCISSORS.

paper tapers to save matches is pretty well over, but the day of the string bag, with its ball of many colors and myriad knots or, worse still, with its impenetrable tangle of miscellaneous pieces, is by no means past.

Sometimes a little piece of string—just a little piece, mind you—but one that is clean and continuous, is so sorely needed. Sometimes one doesn't really want to carry a package tied with part white and part striped like a stick of peppermint candy or a barber pole, but the family string bag offers no better.

Then there are other times when one is already late for an engagement and the piece of string which looked long enough won't quite reach. This situation has really tragic possibilities. Without seeming to encourage reckless extravagance one might perhaps suggest that a whole new ball of twine all in one piece and color can be purchased for 10 cents.

If little things really make a financial difference in a household, the string bag is a commendable economy, but if there are eighteen dollar hats and strawberries out of season then why not have string by the ball and even new white wrapping paper and fresh tissue paper kept in a convenient place.

To encourage the string ball idea there are string boxes with small scissors for clipping the twine. Some are made of leather. That shown in the cut is of pressed brass and would be a welcome addition to a library table.

CONDENSED STORIES.

General Sherman's Opinion of His Fitness For the Presidency.

In the opinion of many competent persons Sherman was the ablest commander in the Union service. I remember a remarkable utterance of his when we were speaking of Grant's campaign. "There was a difference," Sherman said, "between Grant's way and mine of looking at things. Grant never cared a snap about what was going on behind the enemy's lines, but it often scared me like the devil."

I have already mentioned Sherman's letter to the secretary of the treasury, in which he expressed his own distrust in his faculty in dealing with civic affairs. Several years after the close of the civil war, at a time when a presidential election was approaching, some Republican newspapers suggested General Sherman's nomination as the Republican candidate. One day about this time I happened to meet the gen-

"DO THEY THINK I AM A FOOL?"

eral on a ferryboat between Jersey City and New York, and in the course of our conversation I referred to the Republican papers as using his name. Sherman at once burst out in his characteristic fashion. "What!" said he. "Do they think I am a blamed fool? They know that I don't know anything about politics and am not fit for the presidency. At least I know it. No, I am not a fool. I am a happy man now. Look at Grant! Look at Grant! What wouldn't he give now if he had never meddled with politics? No, they must let me alone. They can't bedevil me!" There was a treasure of the rare wisdom of self knowledge in this rough speech, and it was thoroughly sincere. — From Carl Schurz's Autobiography in McClure's.

Overdid His Cordiality.

Dr. A. F. W. Ingram, the bishop of London, said at a dinner in Washington:

"They say I overdo athletics, but I don't really. Exercise keeps me fit. I don't overdo it any more than the parliamentary candidate, Juggins, overdid his cordiality.

"Juggins was running for a slum district in Birmingham, and his cordiality among the slum voters excited a good deal of surprise. Two canvassers fell into talk about it.

"'It's a grand idea of Candidate Juggins,' said the first. 'Instead of just shaking hands with a voter in the ordinary way he rushes up and grabs the man's two hands, shaking them long and warmly.'

"'But isn't that rather overdoing it?' said the other canvasser.

"'Overdoing it? No, indeed. It may look like overdoing it, but Juggins knows his way about. As long as he holds both the fellow's hands he knows his purse is safe.'"

Why He's Smarter Than Stubbs.

"T. M. Schumacher," said the operating man, "is the greatest traffic official in the United States. Why, Stubbs isn't in it with him when it comes down to figuring, and the El Paso Southwestern may be congratulated on possessing a man whose abilities are simply phenomenal."

"On what do you base your assertion?" asked a Southern Pacific traffic man who believes that J. C. Stubbs is without an equal.

"Look here," retorted the other, with some heat, "I'd like to see Stubbs do what Tom Schumacher can do. One day we were running at seventy miles an hour through 300 acres of rye, and before we were out of the field Schumacher had calculated how many highballs could be made out of the rye that was raised on that patch."—San Francisco Call.

An Even Tempered Man.

"When I heah you tawk about havin' a even tempah," said the Kentucky colonel, "I can't he'p thinkin' of Jack Chinn and whut old man Hutchins used to say of him back theah in Harrodsburg. Ole man Hutchins used to say: 'Jack Chinn he's jes' about the mos' even tempahed man evah wus in the wuhld, he is. Mad all the time.'"

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His Little Joke.

Coakley—This paper says "beef makes brawn and fish makes brain." I wonder how these food experts figure out that fish makes brain.

Joakley—Probably because fish travel in schools.—Philadelphia Press.

He Went In Deep.

Briggs—Hear the church chimes. What do they remind you of?

Diggs (who has gone in pretty heavily for Christmas presents)—They remind me of the bell of a cash register. —Judge.

Her Idea.

"Stocks were all down a few points today," remarked the broker.

"The idea!" exclaimed his wife. "It's a wonder they didn't advertise it as a bargain day!"—Catholic Standard and Times

Dire Expectation.

"Did you have an excuse for staying away from school today?" said one small boy.

"No," answered the other, "but if father delivers the chastisement I expect I'll have a good excuse for staying away tomorrow."—Washington Star.

Considering.

After he had been in deep thought for several minutes Mr. Henpeck said: "I have made up my mind."

"Have you?" his wife replied. "It seems to me it took you a long time, considering what you had to make up."—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Sad Affair.

Bleeker—Poor Peckem got it in the neck this morning.

Meeker—How did it happen?

Bleeker—His wife bought him a necktie at a bargain sale.—Chicago News

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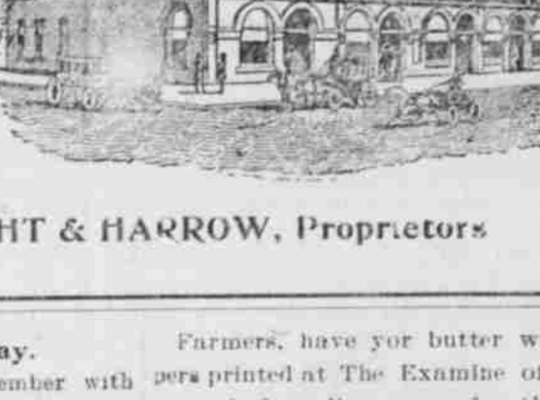

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